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Welcome to our annual OICA Legislative Learning Lab! For years, many different organizations have discussed assembling a program to provide a deep dive into the state legislative process for advocates to better equip them in understanding how the process works. We hope this four-day conference helps each of you either understand better the process or sharpen your skills to be that much more effective in helping shape better policies for Oklahoma, and - most importantly - the children of the state!

Schedule of Sessions

Wednesday, January 31st (Virtual)

- 9 a.m. - *Breakdown of the Legislative Process with The Honorable Joe Dorman.*
- 10 a.m. - *Committee Structures in the Legislature with Arnella Karges.*
- 11 a.m. - *Effective Coalition Building with The Honorable Kris Steele, Caitlin Lee, The Honorable Chris Bengé, and Luke Martin.*

Thursday February 1st (In Person at Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits & Virtual)

- 9 a.m. - *Oklahoma's Rich Political History with Dr. Bob Blackburn.*
- 10 a.m. - *Government Relations Coalition with Haley Faulkenberry, Alex Adkins, Deano Cox, Jennifer Lepard, and Shawn Lepard.*
- 11 a.m. - *Oklahoma's Judicial Branch with The Honorable Jari Askins.*
- 12 noon - *Legislative Leader Luncheon with Rep. Mark Lawson, Rep. Melissa Provenzano, and Sen. Kay Floyd.*
- 1 p.m. - *Oklahoma's Executive Branch with The Honorable David Walters and The Honorable Frank Keating.*
- 2 p.m. - *Tribal Relations with Cherokee Congressional Delegate-Designee Kim TeeHee.*
- 3 p.m. - *Media and Politics with Mike Ray, Payton May, Paul Monies, and Lionel Ramos.*

Friday, February 2nd (Virtual)

- 9 a.m. - *Budget Timelines and Process in State Government with Rep. Kevin Wallace.*
- 10 a.m. - *Legislative Staff: What Happens Behind the Scenes? with Brad Wolgamott and Pam King.*
- 11 a.m. - *Political Panel: How Politics and Elections Can Impact Legislation with Chad Alexander, Pat Hall, and Fount Holland.*

Monday, February 5th (Virtual)

- 9 a.m. - *Researching Bills and Following Legislative Agendas with The Honorable Jay Paul Gumm and David Blatt.*
- 10:00am- *Ethics Policies and Finance Laws for Advocates with Ashley Kemp.*
- 10:30am- *Different Levels of Government with The Honorable Kenneth Corn, The Honorable Mark Mann, and The Honorable Larry Stein.*
- 11 a.m. - *Higher Education with The Honorable Jeff Hickman and The Honorable Chris Bengé.*
- 11:30 a.m. - *OICA Legislative Priorities Update with The Honorable Joe Dorman, Alexa Adkins, and The Honorable AJ Griffin.*
- *STATE OF THE STATE - Gov. J. Kevin Stitt.*
- *After State of the State - Post State of the State Panel Discussion with The Honorable AJ Griffin, Cecilia Robinson-Woods, and The Honorable Joe Dorman.*

Presenter Biographies

In Order of Appearance in the Legislative Learning Lab



Joe Dorman serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy. Joe served House District 65 as the state representative for 12 years, which included parts of Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, and Stephens Counties. He authored key pieces of legislation for education, public safety, and government accountability. He was a candidate for Governor in 2014, and formerly served as a town council member in Rush Springs, as well as the chairman of the Watermelon Festival held on the second Saturday of August.

Joe is a board member of the Oklahoma Academy, Ground Zero, the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature Foundation, and is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City and was selected by the Journal Record as one of the 50 most influential Oklahoma CEOs in 2022.



Hired by President Pro Tempore Greg Treat in 2018, Arnella Karges is the Chief Operating Officer for the Oklahoma Senate, managing a staff of over 130 people and executing the day-to-day activities and operations of the Senate.

Prior to joining Senate staff, Arnella was a registered lobbyist for the Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association and previously the State Chamber of Oklahoma. In her role as an advocate for these statewide associations, Arnella specialized in energy, natural resources, aerospace, military affairs, technology, telecommunications, transportation, and ethics compliance issues.

In previous state service, Arnella worked for the Oklahoma House of Representatives in various roles including Parliamentarian and Redistricting Director for 2009-2011.



Kris Steele is Executive Director of TEEM (The Education and Employment Ministry), a non-profit dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty and incarceration in Oklahoma. TEEM offers educational opportunities, cognitive behavior courses, life skills instruction, job training and employment placement assistance to individuals impacted by the criminal legal system. He also serves as Advisor of Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, a coalition comprised of community groups, business leaders, health professionals and faith leaders dedicated to ad-

vancing effective approaches to community safety by increasing access to treatment and programs designed to address root causes of crime. Kris earned a bachelor's degree in religion from Oklahoma Baptist University, and master's degree in education from East Central University. Prior to joining TEEM, Kris served as State Representative from 2000-2012, and Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for the 53rd Legislature. During his tenure in office, he led the charge on a number of reforms in the areas of health care, human services, and criminal justice. Kris and his wife, Kellie, are blessed with two daughters:

Mackenzie (21) and Madison (20) and currently reside in Shawnee.



Caitlin currently serves as a Policy and Advocacy Director for EdChoice. In her work, she works with coalitions in key states to advance universal educational choice policies that empower students and their families.

She was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and raised outside of Sallisaw, Oklahoma. She graduated from Sallisaw Public Schools after attending both Sallisaw- Central Schools and Shawnee Public Schools. Caitlin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a second Interdisciplinary degree in Math and Physical Sciences from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma where she attended on a full academic scholarship.

After graduation, Caitlin worked in Weatherford Public Schools as a paraprofessional and as a legal secretary for an Oklahoma City law firm while taking graduate classes and studying for the LSAT. Always interested in state politics, she accepted a session-only position with the Oklahoma House of Representatives as a Legislative Assistant. After spending a session working with Representative Jadine Nollan, Caitlin began law school, but was quickly offered a full-time position with the Oklahoma House of Representatives as a Legislative Assistant and transitioned to attending law school part-time. After four semesters in law school, she realized her passion was policy and state politics, and practicing law was not in her future.

Caitlin spent time as the administrator of a medical research clinic, developing the practice from strictly an FDA trial facility to possessing its own infusion clinic, lab facilities and private practice. She went on to teach math at Union and Coweta Public Schools, before staying home to raise her twins, Maverick, and Arlington. Prior to joining EdChoice, Caitlin had returned to the Oklahoma House of Representatives.



Chris Benge has spent his career serving the people of Oklahoma. As Interim Senior Vice President at OSU-Tulsa, he leads the operations and provides strategic vision for Oklahoma State University's urban branch campus.

Benge worked with his father in a small family-owned painting and construction business before serving in the Oklahoma House of Representatives for 12 years. During his time in the House, he served for three years as chairman of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee and as Speaker of the House from 2008 to 2010.

After leaving the House due to term limits, Benge returned to Tulsa to work as an advisor to Mayor Dewey Bartlett, and in 2011 he was named senior vice president of government affairs at the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

In November 2013, Benge was appointed Oklahoma Secretary of State by Gov. Mary Fallin. In February 2015, he also became Oklahoma's Secretary of Native American Affairs. Benge transitioned to the role of Fallin's Chief of Staff in October 2016.

In 2019, he joined OSU Center for Health Sciences as executive director of Rural and Tribal Health Policy at the Center for Rural Health, and in 2021 he returned to his alma mater as Interim Senior Vice President at OSU-Tulsa.

Benge is passionate about promoting the unique qualities that make Oklahoma an ideal place to live, work and play. He has represented the state on diplomatic missions abroad to South Korea and Taiwan and demonstrated his commitment to raising Oklahoma's profile on the world stage by creating a state room for international guests in the State Capitol building.



Luke Martin attended Oklahoma State University where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration. He began his career with five years on the staff of Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry, serving as a personal assistant, cabinet liaison, and deputy legislative liaison. During this time, Luke worked on a variety of issues including education, early childhood development, economic development, and public safety.

In 2009, Luke became an associate with Oklahoma Political Strategies and The Capital Group. As an associate with OPS, a campaign management firm, Luke managed numerous campaigns including statewide races, ballot initiatives, municipal elections, and legislative races. As an associate with The Capital Group, Luke lobbied for a number of issues and clients including healthcare, energy, and higher education.

In 2010, Luke established his own lobbying and consulting firm - Capital Plus. Capital Plus, a government relations consulting firm, specializes in legislative strategy and aiding clients in understanding the complexities of legislation and political realities. Luke assists in developing legislative strategies and effectively advocates legislators on behalf of clients.

Luke is married to Kylie, they have three sons, Gamble, Oxley, and Grady, and live in Choctaw.



Bob Blackburn, a native Oklahoman, has served as executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society since 1999. He joined the OHS in 1980 as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* & became deputy director for agency operations in 1990.

Blackburn is a 1973 graduate of Southwest OSU, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He earned his M.A. & Ph.D. in history from OSU. Blackburn grew up in Edmond & graduated from Putnam City High School in 1969.

Blackburn published several articles & his first book while still in graduate school & has since written or co-authored 18 books & numerous articles, journal entries, & screen plays. He is a steady source of historical information to the media & has appeared numerous times on the History Channel.

He was instrumental in planning & building the Oklahoma History Center, a 215,000 square foot museum & research center. Blackburn has served on numerous national & regional boards & committees, including the Western History Association, the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians, the AIA, & Leadership Oklahoma City.

His hobbies are reading, running, carpentry, landscaping & golf. He is married to former State Representative Debbie Blackburn & they have one son, Beau, who is a professional photographer in San Diego, California.



Haley Faulkenberry is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Association of Health Plans. As executive director, Haley works to advance the priorities of the OAHF member health plans with a focus on ensuring every Oklahoman has access to high-quality, affordable health insurance options.

With over 12 years of experience advocating on behalf of Oklahomans at the state capitol, Haley has a demonstrated history of working in health care, human services, and appropriate

tions policy, executing strategic grassroots campaigns and coalitions, and working with state leaders, lawmakers, and agencies to form and pass policies to help address health outcomes in Oklahoma.

Haley has extensive knowledge of Oklahoma state agencies, boards, and commissions, and maintains strong relationships with members of the Oklahoma Legislature. Throughout her career, she has successfully helped negotiate various state contracts and assisted in coordinating public-private partnerships with state agencies and private foundations.

A lifelong Oklahoman, Haley holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Oklahoma State University and resides in Yukon.



An attorney by trade, Alexandra Adkins brings a legal background and perspective to A&A Advocates and a passion for policy. Growing up in a family of legislators and lobbyists, Ms. Adkins has always felt herself drawn to the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Prior to joining A&A Advocates, Ms. Adkins served as an Assistant Attorney General and Legislative Liaison at the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. While at the AG's Office, Alexandra staffed numerous Board and Commissions, including, but not limited to, the Opioid Commission, Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board, Opioid Abatement Board, and the Criminal Justice Reclassification Council. She also participated in the drafting and improving of administrative rules and procedures, as well as ensuring compliance with the Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act. Through her legal research, she provided legislators and state agencies with statutory and legal interpretation guidance. As Legislative Liaison, Ms. Adkins drafted request legislation, monitored, and tracked bills during the legislative session, and communicated with lawmakers and constituents regarding policy perspectives and issues.

During law school, Ms. Adkins spent time working at the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals as well as the Harris County District Attorney's Office in Houston, Texas. Her heart for victims led her to lead the Victim's Advocacy Program at OU Law which assisted victims of domestic violence and sexual assault obtain protective orders. Her oral advocacy skills were honed through participation in the National Trial Team Competition, earning her the top grade in Trial Techniques as well as Order of the Solicitors recognition. Ms. Adkins served as President of the Board of Advocates, Secretary of the Women in Law Organization, and Secretary of the Native American Law Society.

Ms. Adkins graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law with a J.D. and Oklahoma State University with an Honors Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Entrepreneurship and a Minor in American Indian Studies.



Deano Cox has spent over 43 years with AT&T managing and delivering unmatched results in a myriad of different leadership positions ranging from Network, Broadband, Wireless/Wireline Operations, Operator and Call Center Services, Marketing, Accounting/Auditing as well as few others in between. For over the past 15 years he has led the AT&T Oklahoma Legislative Affairs team. As the Legislative Affairs leader, he manages the state governmental

affairs responsibilities to monitor, track, develop plans to address the plethora of legislative actions affecting AT&T and its subsidiaries. Deano works closely with the telecommunications industry to collaboratively advance positive policy issues and positions that are favorable to the long-term interests of the state of Oklahoma. He has a thorough understanding of state and federal legislative processes, and other public agencies and the roles they play in Oklahoma's commerce, economic development, and diplomacy. He is a former graduate of Leadership Oklahoma.



Shawn Lepard's work in policy and advocacy began in 1996 under the mentorship of Texas Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry. There, Shawn honed his skills in public and legislative relations before transitioning to campaign grassroots organizing where he served during a presidential election campaign. This experience led him to a role with the Texas Senate Education Committee managing priority legislation for the Chair. Shawn further developed his public relations skills with an Austin-based PR agency before being tapped to establish and lead an advocacy organization dedicated to advancing rural economic development across Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. He served in this role until 2004, when he founded his own government consulting business to provide expertise to a more diverse array of client interests. Shawn is an alumnus of Texas Tech University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Agriculture Communications. With his extensive experience and a proven track record of fostering positive change, Shawn is excited to continue providing strategic lobbying services that meet the needs of organizations at the Oklahoma State Capitol.



A native of Oklahoma, Jennifer Lepard brings 20 years of experience in shaping state policy to Nova Group Consulting. Jennifer began her career as a bill drafter for the Oklahoma State Senate where she first honed her legislative experience. Following her tenure in the Senate, she transitioned to advocacy at the State Chamber of Oklahoma where she championed health care initiatives and oversaw policy development as Executive Director of the State Chamber Research Foundation. During the pandemic, Jennifer returned to public service as the Chief Operating Officer for the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Chief of Community Partnerships for the State Department of Education. Jennifer then returned to the private sector to form Nova Group Consulting, a full-service lobbying and government relations firm in Oklahoma City.



Jari Askins took the office of Oklahoma Administrative Director of the Courts in 2015. Previously she served as Oklahoma's 15th lieutenant governor from 2007 to 2011. Askins was born April 27, 1953, in Duncan, Oklahoma. She completed her Bachelor Arts in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1975. In 1980, she received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Prior to serving as lieutenant governor, Askins served as the special district judge of Stephen County, Oklahoma, from 1982 to 1990. From 1991 to 1992, she served as the chair of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board, becoming the board's first female chair. From 1992 to 1994, she served as the deputy counsel to Governor Walters. Prior to being elected as lieutenant governor, she also served 12 years as a state representative.



P. Kay Floyd graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, a minor degree in political science, and a minor degree in philosophy. After graduating from OSU, Senator Floyd attended law school at the University of Oklahoma where she received her Juris Doctor degree.

After two years in private practice, Senator Floyd became an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma working in both the civil and criminal divisions. In 1987, Senator Floyd accepted the position of Deputy Executive Director for the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission.

In 1989, Senator Floyd was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Oklahoma and served in that capacity for 22 years. Her appointment made her one of the youngest women in Oklahoma history to receive a judicial appointment. During that time, she also served as a Special Municipal Court Judge for the City of Oklahoma City.

Along with her judicial duties, Senator Floyd has been an adjunct professor at Oklahoma State University and an attorney for the senior citizens division of Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma. Senator Floyd has worked as a volunteer on the Citizens Action Committee for the Oklahoma City Animal Shelter and as a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association's Women in Law committee. She also serves as an Advisory Council Member for Palomar Family Justice Center and is a former member of ReMerge Board of Directors.

Senator Floyd has served on the OKC AIDS Walk Board of Directors and is a member of the Board of Directors of Lyric Theatre in Oklahoma City.

Senator Floyd was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2012 and the Oklahoma Senate in 2014 where she has served as Senate Democratic Leader since 2018. While in the Senate, Senator Floyd focused on improving our education system and working for Oklahoma's women and children. She has authored bills to provide suicide prevention training in Oklahoma's schools and require potential guardians to undergo background checks.

In 2014, Senator Floyd authored the Lethality Assessment Act which made Oklahoma the first in the nation to establish such a program. In 2019, she authored legislation to address Oklahoma's backlog of untested rape kits through standardizing the guidelines for testing rape kits and creating a statewide tracking system for collecting sexual assault evidence. The legislation also expands continuing education for law enforcement on how to properly address sexual assault reports.

Senator Floyd currently serves on the Appropriations, General Government, Judiciary and Rules Committees, as well as the Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations.



The past four years of serving the residents of House District 79 has been an honor for Rep. Melissa Provenzano. When filing and running legislation, she prioritizes constituent requests and the concerns expressed to her during conversations with neighbors and the people of House District 79. She understands the importance of transparency and accountability in Oklahoma's public servants and centers those principles as she works to help Oklahomans overcome real problems.



Mark Lawson was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2016.

He believes the key to Oklahoma's prosperity begins with our families at home. His primary focus during his legislative service has been children and family issues. Mark has championed legislation to strengthen families and reduce childhood trauma.

Mark spent many years advocating for children and families before being elected. His work at the Youth Services of Tulsa's Safe Place program and the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis gave him firsthand experience of the struggles many of our families face. Mark also served as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for abused and neglected children in Creek County and is a former chairman of the Youth Services of Creek County's board of directors.

Currently, Mark serves as Chairman for the Appropriations and Budget subcommittee for Human Services, which oversees 10% of the entire state budget. Additionally, he serves on the full Appropriations and Budget committee and the standing committees on Government Efficiency and Children, Youth & Family Services.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from Oklahoma State University and is currently enrolled as a master's student at the University of Oklahoma in the Public Administration program.

Mark and his wife, Pam, have two wonderful children. Asher is a multiple sport athlete, and they welcomed their beautiful daughter, Ivy Ruth, in April 2020.



Governor Frank Keating is an attorney by training and a former partner of Holland and Knight. Formerly, he was the president and CEO of the American Bankers Association. The ABA is a 140-year-old association that represents banks of all sizes and charters and is the voice for the nation's \$13 trillion banking industry and its two million employees. Keating became ABA's president and CEO on January 1, 2011, and stayed through December 31, 2015, following seven years of service as the president and CEO of the American Council of Life Insurers, and after serving two terms as Oklahoma's 25th governor.

Born in St. Louis, Frank grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from the University of Oklahoma. His 30-year career in law enforcement and public service included service as an FBI agent; U.S. Attorney and state prosecutor; and Oklahoma House and Senate member, including service as a Republican senate leader.

He served Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush in the Treasury, Justice, and Housing departments. His Justice and Treasury service gave him responsibility for all federal criminal prosecutions in the nation and oversight over agencies such as the Secret Service, U.S. Customs, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Marshals, the Bureau of Prisons, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service and all 94 U.S. Attorneys. As assistant secretary of Treasury and general counsel and acting deputy secretary of HUD, Keating's work included housing finance, lending practices, securitization, and Bank Secrecy Act issues.

In 1993 Keating returned to Oklahoma to run for Governor. He won a three-way race by a landslide and was easily re-elected in 1998, becoming only the second governor in Oklahoma history to serve two consecutive terms.

As the governor of Oklahoma, Keating won national acclaim in 1995 for his compassionate and professional handling of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City. In the aftermath of the tragedy, he helped raise more than six million dollars to fund scholarships for the nearly 200 children left with only one or no parents. His accomplishments as Governor include winning a successful public vote on right-to-work, tort reform, tax cuts, and major road building and education reform.

Keating is the chairman emeritus of the Board of the Washington based Bipartisan Policy Center and served on the Policy Center's Debt Reduction Task Force, a group of former cabinet members, elected officials and key stakeholders of both parties that recommended a series of tough measures to address the nation's fiscal challenges. He also served on the BPC's Housing Commission. He was previously chairman of the Advisory Board of Mt. Vernon and president of the Federal City Council. He also served on the boards of the National Archives, the Jamestown Foundation and as chair of the National Catholic Review Board. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma.

He is a Director of Hall Capital, Global Financial, Banc First Corporation and Citizens Life Insurance Company.

Keating also is the author of five award-winning children's books, biographies of Will Rogers, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Standing Bear, the Ponca Indian chief who argued Native Americans deserve the same rights as white Americans and Alexander Hamilton. He is the recipient of six honorary degrees.

He and his wife Cathy live in Oklahoma City, OK. They have three children and eleven grandchildren.



David Walters is President of Walters Power International. Mr. Walters served as the Governor of Oklahoma from 1991 to 1995.

As Governor, David Walters presided over a \$7 billion organization that employed 135,000 people. Governor Walters reduced by attrition the number of state government employees for the first time in the history of the State of Oklahoma, aggressively promoted economic development, achieving a 15-year record in job growth. Governor Walters successfully opposed all tax increases and yet oversaw a 30% increase in education funding by reallocating budget dollars. Walters passed the first capital improvements bond issue in Oklahoma in 25 years, which invested over \$350 million dollars in the State's infrastructure. He advanced the first workers compensation insurance reform in 15 years, causing substantial rate reductions. Governor Walters led trade delegations to eight nations during his term. Oklahoma's international trade grew at twice the national average during his term in office.

At the conclusion of his term in office he entered the independent power industry. Walters has developed dozens of independent power projects. He has negotiated and signed agreements on projects in China, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador, Pakistan, India, the United Kingdom, Spain, Finland, France, Bulgaria, Poland and in several locations in the U.S. Since 1995, Walters has made over 200 international trips to 35 countries, traveling over 3,000,000 miles. In 2010 his work in Pakistan was recently featured in Forbes Magazine and in 2011 his role as a back channel negotiator with the Taliban for the pre-9/11 extradition of Osama Bin Laden was identified in Vanity Fair Magazine.

Walters is the owner of Walters Power International based in Oklahoma City. Walters Power International has

ownership in a number of other companies including but not limited to Walters Power California, Walters Power United Kingdom, Texas Power Reserve, Pakistan Power Resources, Oklahoma Property Investors, and Cimarron Power Ventures. His companies are active in power project development, electrical generation equipment sales and leasing industry and consulting on power project development.

David Walters achieved a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Oklahoma and a master's in business administration from Harvard University. He and his wife Rhonda have three daughters and three grandchildren and make their home in Oklahoma City.

David Walters has been recognized for his political, business, community and philanthropic leadership by numerous state and national organizations.



Kim Teehee is director of government relations for Cherokee Nation and senior vice president of government relations for Cherokee Nation Businesses. In 2019, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. named Teehee as the tribe's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. She previously served President Barack Obama as the first-ever senior policy advisor for Native American Affairs in the White House Domestic Policy Council. Teehee also served as senior advisor to the bi-partisan U.S. House of Representatives Native American Caucus. As senior advisor, she established an impressive record of accomplishments on a wide array of Native American issues. Teehee received her B.A. in political science from Northeastern State University and her J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law.



Payton May joined the FOX25 News team as a reporter in August 2021. She could not be more excited to call the Sooner state her home!

Before arriving at FOX25, Payton reported, anchored, and produced at KOKH's sister station in Traverse City, Michigan. While in northern Michigan she covered the 2020 Presidential election fraud, the alleged kidnapping attempt on the governor, and worked to bring awareness on legislation to protect the Great Lakes.

Payton graduated from Syracuse University with dual majors in Broadcast & Digital Journalism and Political Science. Go orange! During her time at 'Cuse she worked for the on-campus television station, interned at local WSYR-TV, studied abroad in Italy, and moved to L.A. to work at E! News.

Born and raised in Chicago, Payton is a huge Blackhawks and Bears fan (and of course a deep dish pizza fanatic). She enjoys playing instruments, going to art galleries, traveling, and finding amazing restaurants.



Paul Monies has been a reporter for 15 years and was most recently an energy reporter for The Oklahoman newspaper in Oklahoma City. He has also worked as a data journalist at USA Today and on the watchdog investigations team at The Oklahoman. Monies is a native of Scotland and has degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and the University of Missouri School of Journalism.



Lionel Ramos joined Oklahoma Watch in June 2021 as a corps member with Report for America, a GroundTruth initiative that places emerging journalists in newsrooms across the country. He is a recent Texas State University graduate with a major in English–Creative Writing and a minor in Journalism.

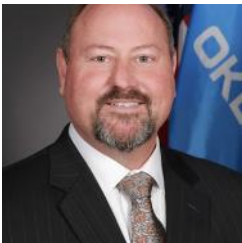


Mike W. Ray is a fifth-generation journalist who has worked in the news/communication business for 55 years. He worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone for two years in the Public Relations Division.

He worked in the Media Division of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for 19 years, including years when Joe Dorman was on the House staff and later when he was elected to the Legislature.

Mike has been a reporter on daily newspapers in Muskogee, Lawton, and Stillwater, as well as Odessa and Borger, Texas, and on four weekly newspapers in Oklahoma; I have been a general-assignment reporter with the Southwest Ledger newspaper, based in Comanche County, for the last four years.

Mike was the Opinion Page editor of the Muskogee Daily Phoenix when the “Oklahoma Shame” series was published.



Kevin Wallace is the state representative for House District 32, which includes all of Lincoln County and a small portion of Logan County. A lifelong Lincoln County native and Wellston High School graduate, he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1993. Kevin founded American Cellular Service and Dynatek Development Services, which he sold in 2000. That same year he founded SWT Construction, where he continues to serve as a manager. He also owns an equipment rental company and a small investment firm. Kevin is co-owner of The Wilderness Refuge, a hunting reserve, and Wallahachie L.L.C., a whitetail deer and cattle breeding operation. He is an active member of First Baptist Church of Wellston.



Brad Wolgamott is the Director of Research for the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Brad is a native of northwest Oklahoma and began his career with the legislature as a research analyst thirty years ago. As Director of Research, Brad is involved in guiding the legislative process and providing his insight to lawmakers. His areas of policy expertise are administrative rules, criminal justice, corrections, and public safety.



Pam King has over 17 years of experience in assisting legislative members and Oklahomans who need assistance in navigating state agencies. She grew up in South Oklahoma City, graduated from OKC Public Schools and has a Bachelor of Human Resources from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany OK.

Prior to coming to the Oklahoma Capitol Building she worked in home health, system analyst/help desk for a national aftermarket transmission company. Pam has worked for both the majority party and the minority party as an assistant. First in the House as a legislative assistant to 6 representatives over 9 ½ years before going to work in the Senate as an Executive Assistant to 2 senators the last 7 years. Pam follows her mom and Aunt into the job of assistant as they both worked in the House. Her uncle was a representative from Hollis in the early 1950's.

She loves her job as an assistant where her most favorite part is providing help and guidance to the constituents who call for help, advice and sometimes they just need someone to listen to.

Her plan is to die at her desk and haunt the Capitol.



Chad Alexander, celebrated Oklahoma conservative talk show host, began his career in politics in 1994 as part of the historic campaign for JC Watts, Jr, the first African-American Republican elected south of the Mason-Dixon line since reconstruction. Chad served as the Deputy Campaign Manager and then Campaign Manager from 1994 until 2000.

In 2001, when Chad was just 27 years old, he made history by being the youngest elected State Chairman of the Republican Party of Oklahoma. He served until 2003.

After serving as the State Chairman of the Republican Party, Chad established his own political consulting and lobbying company. To date, he has served on two presidential campaigns, congressional campaigns, and consulted for numerous statewide campaigns. Chad has also lobbied for many corporations and associations.

Chad is a member of the Leadership Oklahoma Class 25 and the Oklahoma City Community College Alumni Hall of Fame. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Metro Alliance, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, and currently for the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce. Chad was also named the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's 2020 Man of the Year for Oklahoma.

In 2021, Chad was appointed to serve on Oklahoma County Jail Trust.

Chad hosts The Chad Alexander Show on KOKC Radio Monday through Friday from 4 pm to 6 pm where he covers state and federal topics as well as highlights nonprofits within Oklahoma.

His greatest achievement is being a husband and father.



Pat Hall has more than forty-three years' experience as Executive Director/Chief Executive of two large not-for-profit organizations, President of his own consulting company, and owner of a clothing store.

Pat is currently the President and a partner in The Capital Group, a multi-faceted consulting firm that specializes in government relations, political campaign management, communications, board and media relations, and not-for-profit association management.

In 2005 Pat also formed another consulting firm with veteran Republican legislator Jim Dunlap to form Majority Plus, LLC. Together they are the co-hosts of a weekly Cox Communications political TV show titled "Inside the Issues."

From 1996 to present, Pat has also co-owned the Lady Austin's clothing stores in Altus, Oklahoma. From 1980 through 1995, Pat was the Executive Director and lobbyist for the Oklahoma Public Employees Association. From 1996 to August 1999, Pat was the CEO of the Oklahoma Democratic Party and President of the Carl Albert Foundation. Pat was a member of the United States Army Military Police Corps from June 1974 to October 1977 and obtained the rank of Captain.

Pat has a master's in public administration from the University of Oklahoma and a BS in Education from Southwest Missouri State University.

Pat and his wife, Melanie, an attorney, live in Norman, Oklahoma.

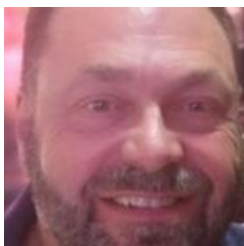


Fount Holland is a political consultant operating in the state of Oklahoma. He is the founder of A.H. Strategies and Majority Designs, both in Oklahoma City. While in college at the University of Oklahoma, Fount Holland worked as a field representative for the Republican Party of Oklahoma. After graduating with a degree in journalism in 1987, he worked as reporter until getting into politics full time. Holland initially worked as the communications director for U.S. Rep. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) until founding his own consulting business—A.H. Strategies—in

1997.

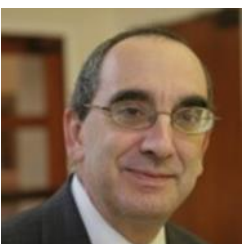
As a strategist, Holland has consulted with campaigns across Oklahoma. Some of his clients in 2014 included T. W. Shannon, Joy Hofmeister and Fred Jordan in Oklahoma. Holland's website also notes that past clients include Congressman Markwayne Mullin, State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Lt. Governor Todd Lamb, State Treasurer Ken Miller, Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett, and numerous local and state leaders and numerous political and non-profit committees." In 1997, Holland also co-founded—with Trebor Worthen—Majority Designs "to specifically handle creative services for candidates and committees across the southwest region of the United States."

In 2013, Campaigns and Elections named Holland one of the top 10 influencers in the state of Oklahoma. The magazine noted that his firm "has boasted some top GOP officials and candidates as clients."



Jay Paul Gumm is a former member of the Oklahoma Senate where he developed a reputation for being a passionate advocate for children. His work for children earned him a place in OICA's Child Advocate Hall of Fame. Prior to his election to the Senate, he was an award-winning media relations professional, working 13 years for the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and an economic developer in his hometown of Durant. He has more than 30 years of experience in policy, as well as in public relations and communication across all media platforms.

media platforms.



David Blatt joined Oklahoma Appleseed in August 2023 as Director of Research and Strategic Impact having already enjoyed a long career in the public policy arena guided by a deep-seated commitment to expanding opportunity and equity for all citizens. For ten years he led the Oklahoma Policy Institute, shepherding the organization's growth into one of the largest and most respected policy organizations in Oklahoma. Prior to that he served as policy direc-

tor for Community Action Project of Tulsa and as fiscal analyst for the Oklahoma State Senate. After leaving OK Policy in 2019, he was a lecturer in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Oklahoma - Tulsa, teaching courses on poverty and inequality, health care, education, immigration, and the legislative process. A native of Montreal and Edmonton, Canada. David completed a B.A. at the University of Alberta and a master's from McGill University before moving to the U.S. to earn a Ph.D. from Cornell University.



Ashley Kemp is a licensed attorney who served as Director of the Oklahoma Ethics Commission from 2016-2023. At the Commission, she was the project manager for the development of The Guardian System, Oklahoma online ethics reporting and public disclosure system. Additionally, Kemp was responsible for providing guidance on, and investigating violations of, the Ethics Rules of Oklahoma, resulting in successfully negotiating some of the Commission's most significant settlements. Kemp previously served as legal counsel to the State of Oklahoma as General Counsel to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Deputy General Counsel to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and as Assistant General Counsel to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. She is active in the Council of Governmental Ethics Laws, an international organization on Government Ethics where she served as Co-Chair for the program committee and on the Steering Committee for four years, after completing multiple years on the various other committees. Outside of work, Kemp thrives by spending time with her three kids and watching movies, going to live theater, traveling, or really anything that involves making memories!



Kenneth Corn has spent his entire adult life serving the people of Oklahoma. Elected at the age of 22 to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1998, he became one of the youngest individuals to serve in state history. Corn was tapped as vice chairman of the Revenue and Tax Committee making the first freshman lawmaker in thirty years at the time to be on the leadership of a major committee. He was selected as the Secretary of the Democratic Caucus and was later chosen to chair the House committee on Tourism and Recreation. In addition, he was one of the members chosen to help redraw the House and Senate Districts in 2000 during the redistricting required by the Constitution.

In 2002 following the death of his mentor and friend Senator Larry Dickerson, Corn announced his intentions to seek the Senate seat for District 4. He was elected by the voters in Leflore and Sequoyah Counties with a margin of over 80 percent making him the second youngest person to serve in the Senate in state history. Corn was immediately tapped to head the Insurance and Retirement Committee in the Senate where he helped shape the state regulations of the insurance industry and set state policy on retirement for thousands of public sector employees. Corn was also chosen to represent the Senate as a state pension commissioner where he had oversight of billions of dollars in assets. During his tenure, Corn was honored by his election to serve as the Democratic Caucus Chair for the remainder of his service in the Senate. In addition, Corn was tapped to be the chair of the Senate Appropriations Sub-committee for Public Safety and Judiciary where he was considered a strong advocate for law enforcement and a good steward of taxpayers' dollars.

During his service in the Oklahoma Legislature, Corn was a driving force behind increasing teacher pay. His

efforts moved Oklahoma ever closer to the regional average at the time. Corn pushed the legislature to pass the Larry Dickerson Flexible Benefit Act providing 100 percent health insurance to school personnel throughout Oklahoma. In the Senate, Corn spearheaded the efforts to improve public safety which led to the largest appropriations in state history at the time. He tackled prison overcrowding and staffing shortages, additional academies to put more troopers of the street, and increased the pay of state law enforcement officials. Corn reformed the state's Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training with the passage of Senate 920 bringing the system into the modern realities of law enforcement. Corn recognized by law enforcement agencies and officials for his efforts. He was chosen by the District Attorney's Council, Oklahoma State Troopers Association, and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations Director for multiple awards. In addition, Corn was the principal architect of the largest investment in Oklahoma's highway and bridges at the time.

In 2010, Corn returned home to Poteau where he worked in the oil and gas transportation industry. Corn has used his experience and education in government to make changes for the industry through work with state and federal agencies.

Corn was appointed to serve as City Manager of Anadarko, Oklahoma on March 31, 2005. At the time of his appointment, Anadarko had been operating in a deficit. Corn overhauled the City's purchasing process, billing systems and renegotiated contractual obligations, bringing the city back to financial stability and allowing significant investments in capital improvements.

Corn renewed partnerships with the federal, state, county and tribal governments that generated over \$8 million in grants awarded to Anadarko and completed large capital improvements for the city, including significant upgrades to city sidewalks, roadways, water and wastewater system, electric distribution system, landscaping, public art, and to Anadarko's parks. In addition, by gaining support of industries, local businesses and tribal governments, Corn developed festivals including Hoppy Day, Zombies-in-the-Park, Kids, Kites-and-Frights, and a traveling Easter Bunny and Santa, all free to the public.

During his tenure, Anadarko has withstood historic weather, including a "hundred-year flood," ice storms and record-breaking Arctic temperatures. During each crisis, Corn became widely acclaimed by Anadarko citizens for working on site with city crews and updating people via Facebook Live.

On February 24, 2022, Corn was appointed to serve as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Director for Rural Development in Oklahoma by President Joseph Biden, Jr.



Mark Mann is a leading expert in insurance and risk management. Mark was born in Muskogee and raised in Checotah Oklahoma. He attended the University of Oklahoma on a prestigious President Leadership Class Scholarship majoring in International Government and History. Mark is a past board member of The Oklahoma Celebration of Reading, past President of Bricktown Rotary Club, past Chairman of the Bricktown Rotary Foundation, and served as an appointee of Governor Brad Henry on the Oklahoma Board of Podiatric Medical

Examiners. Currently Mark serves on the board of Youth Services of Oklahoma County, as Assistant District Governor for Rotary International District 5750, as Treasurer of the Bricktown Rotary Foundation, and serves on the Board of the Warren Spahn Awards Gala. Mark, along with two other Oklahoma City area businessmen, are the organizers of the Annual Oklahoma City Charity Scotch Tasting that benefits a different area charity each year,

this event has been featured in the international Malt Advocate Magazine. Mark is a member of NAIF (National Association of Insurance and Financial Services Agents) and has achieved their designation of Life Underwriting Training Council Fellow. Rotary International has named Mark a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and Farmers Insurance has awarded Mark the Order of The Blue Vase, and he has attended Farmers Toppers Club. In September 2010, Oklahoma Business Magazine named Mark one of their 40 under 40, and most recently Mark has been honored by being awarded Bricktown Rotary's Service Above Self Award. Mark lives in the historic Mesta Park area of Oklahoma City and is married to Tonya Mann, an assistant high principal. Mark and Tonya have two sons, Alexander age 23 and Andrew age five.



Larry Stein is the Oklahoma County Assessor and manages a multi-million dollar budget and 78 employees.

Larry is a political commentator and is a regular contributor and published author in statewide and international publications. Larry is formerly a national award winning multi-media reporter, talk-show host, Communications Director for the Oklahoma GOP, Deputy Press Secretary the Governor, Chief of Staff for the Lt. Governor and created a private consulting company, OUT SIDE THE BOX which provides media and communications expertise for political campaigns, strategic messaging, branding and style for candidates and businesses. His work has earned two ADDY AWARDS, the Oklahoma advertising industries Oscar, for creative advertising and promotion. He has presented communications seminars to international groups and private businesses.

Before government service Larry was an award winning multi-media journalist earning the National Press Club Award for Consumer Journalism and several local professional journalism and national awards for his reporting. He has also been a columnist for his hometown newspaper and serves on the Edmond Neighborhood Alliance to promote strong neighborhoods.



In February of 2014, the Oklahoma House of Representatives overwhelmingly elected Rep. Jeff Hickman as Speaker of the House. As the elected representative of District 58, Speaker Hickman has represented Alfalfa, Major, Woods and northeast Woodward counties in the Oklahoma House of Representatives since 2004. Dedicated to conservative values, responsible government, rural economic growth and a champion for law enforcement and public safety, Hickman has held a number of leadership positions prior to taking office as Speaker.

He served as Speaker Pro Tempore from 2010 to 2012 and served as chairman of the Public Safety Appropriations & Budget Committee. He also served as a member on the Appropriations & Budget Committee, Energy & Aerospace Committee, and the Agriculture & Wildlife Committee.

Speaker Hickman is involved in his family's farming and ranching operation in northwest Oklahoma and is the fifth generation of his family to own and farm land in Alfalfa and Woods counties. He is a graduate of Cherokee High School and holds a B.A. with Distinction in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma. Hickman was a Top 10 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior at OU and received the Letseizer Medal given to the top three student leaders. Upon graduation, Hickman served as assistant to the President & Athletic Director, Public Affairs Special Projects Coordinator, and as University Press Secretary in the Office of the President, before mov-

ing to Woodward where he was vice president of Omni Media Group.

Speaker Hickman and his wife, Jana, have three children and live in Fairview. Jana works as an occupational therapist in six school districts in northwest Oklahoma.



Cecilia J. Robinson-Woods was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Community Development Advisory Council on Jan. 1, 2017. Robinson-Woods is the superintendent of Millwood Public Schools in Oklahoma City, Okla. With the goal of 100 percent of Millwood students graduating college and career ready, she has introduced innovative reading programs at the elementary level, iPad classrooms in third and seventh grades, on campus concurrent enrollment at the high school level, and has strengthened family and community involvement.

Robinson-Woods serves as a member of the State Superintendents Advisory Board, MAPS 3 Citizens Advisory Council, OKC Public School Foundation Advisory Board, and the Governors' Workforce Youth Council. She is a recent graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City and has received numerous awards for her commitment to education and public service.

Robinson-Woods received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Oklahoma State University, has completed her Master of Education and is in the process of finishing her doctorate in Education Administration and Curriculum Supervision from the University of Oklahoma.



With strong Oklahoma roots and a professional background in business, education, politics and nonprofit work, AJ Griffin brings to Potts Family Foundation tremendous insight into some of the most challenging issues facing Oklahoma families today.

A life-long Oklahoman, AJ grew up on a family farm in Adair. The child of educators, she holds degrees from Oklahoma State University, the University of Central Oklahoma and a Doctorate in Education from Baylor University in Learning and Organizational Change.

AJ spent six years in the Oklahoma State Senate and passed landmark legislation for children including mandating insurance coverage for autism treatments, improving the foster care and juvenile justice systems, and focusing on health care access for all Oklahomans. She was the recipient of numerous awards for her work as a legislator including the Kate Barnard Child Advocate of the Year award.