



OADC OUTLOOK

A Publication of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel

August 2013

OADC 2013 Sponsors

word for word
REPORTING, L.L.C.



**Dodson Court Reporting
& Legal Video**



**Steve Meador &
Associates, Inc.**

Submissions should be sent to Skoshi Heron
at: Skoshi@GoBaker.com
Skoshi Heron
PO Box 5445
Edmond, OK 73083

President's Message

by Malinda Matlock

It's hard to believe that summer is basically over and, while we have been working diligently on behalf of OADC, we have a lot still to accomplish.

Let me give a special mention to the Legislative Committee members who gave so much time this spring following and meeting with various lawmakers as the unprecedented Worker's Comp changes came barreling through the House and Senate. And, thanks to Jason Reese who spoke on behalf of the defense bar at Law Day at the capital in March. The Committee has developed plans that will let our representatives know we are also significant business owners who provide a lot of good jobs to Oklahomans and that we have valuable insight. The Committees work will continue in the Special Session in September. (See Legislative Report within.)

Board member, Steve Johnson, has been working on plans to reinvent the OADC website (www.oadc.org) to be more user friendly and content relevant to our practice. Our website was started before many of us used the web as a primary resource, and updated content was not in as much demand as it is now. Hopefully a new and improved website will be ready by year's end.

Our Summer Meeting was held in June at Big Cedar on Table Rock Lake in southern Missouri. Thanks also to Nathan Clark and Erin Renegar for putting together a great CLE roster. From the feedback I have received, there is an interest in putting Big Cedar on a regular rotation as a Summer Meeting venue. The meeting facilities are outstanding and the resort offers a wide range of activities for all ages. I also want to recognize Lindsay McDowell who did an outstanding job at contacting business owners who support our practices and encouraging them to sponsor OADC's member activities! Finally, as we head into the 4th quarter, please be looking for another CLE opportunity we will be providing for our members and judges. Carrie Palmer and Eric Begin have a very interesting and relevant lunch/CLE program in planning for us for early November. Stay tuned!

If you have any ideas on how OADC can better serve its members, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Legislative Update

Mike Carter, Angela Ailles-Bahm, Pete Serrata and Jason Reece
Special help with Worker's Comp from Grady Parker and Cathy Taylor

After an eventful 2013 Legislative Session, it is more important than ever that OADC focus on having an expanded presence at the State Capitol. In the last year we have retained new lobbyists, Brett Robinson and Dennis Adkins of Capital City Associates, and are making plans to keep our membership informed and active with regular legislative updates during the session. The Legislative Committee and Capital City will also be contacting your firm in regard to creating a Legislative census, creating a database of which legislators represent our members, and how we can all become more involved with legislation that affects OADC members.

The objective of the OADC as it pertains to legislation is to inform and educate the legislature in keeping with the stated purpose of the OADC, in short, to keep or help create an even "playing field." Many times members of the OADC are called upon to talk to members of the legislature or to appear at hearings to discuss issues of interest. The OADC has always had a group who kept up with legislative issues and at the summer meeting, the membership adopted amendments to the by-laws creating a legislative director who is a member of the Board. The current director is Mike Carter.

The activities of the legislature are of significant interest to the members of the OADC and the members' clients. Many of you certainly kept up with the negotiations dealing with Comp reform and are keeping up with the upcoming special session to deal with the effects of the Supreme Court's decision in *Douglas v. Cox Retirement Properties, Inc.*, 2013 OK 37. We anticipate that the 2013 session will pale in comparison to the special session and the next regular session. We need your assistance. If are willing to work on the committee, or have a relationship with a member of the legislature and you are willing to act as a conduit with that legislator, please let any member of the Board know. *We need you!*

Website Update

Steve Johnson
Foliart Huff, Ottaway & Bottom

The Website committee is actively working on improving the OADC website. If you are not already familiar with OADC's website, please visit www.oadc.org. Currently, our website allows members to create a login and view a membership directory; post to a bulletin board; and search for expert information or legislative updates. We encourage you to create a login and browse the site, and even submit a question or comment on the bulletin board. The bulletin board currently contains only one post, which references the Douglas and Wall cases decided by the Oklahoma Supreme Court on June 4, 2013.

In the interim, the Website committee is exploring ways to improve not only the look of the website, but also the password-protected membership experience. We plan for our redesigned website to allow our membership to exchange ideas, defense themes, expert information, verdict news, legislative updates, etc., etc. in a quicker and more user-friendly way.

For example, this can be done by implementing a list serv and/or improved bulletin board capability with automatic email notifications; improved ability to exchange depositions and expert materials; and an improved membership database that would allow members to update their information. Another possibility is to implement seminar registration/payment and dues payment from the website. The goal is to make the OADC website a site that you have in your list of favorites and frequent often to assist you in your daily practice. Should you have ideas or suggestions for the website committee regarding improvement of the site, please contact: Steve Johnson, Foliart, Huff, Ottaway & Bottom, OADC Website Committee sjohnson@oklahomacounsel.com.