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ACHIEVERS
under **40**
2020

Periodical supplement to The Journal Record • August 28, 2020

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Admirable



Congratulations to **Melanie Wilson Rughani**, Achievers Under 40 honoree.

Co-chair of the firm's Appellate and Initiative Petitions Practice Groups, Melanie is a devoted litigator for her clients in the courtroom and a champion for Oklahoma families in need through her service as a member of the board for Parent Promise.

We commend **Melanie** and all of the Achievers Under 40 future leaders.



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ACHIEVERS

under **40**

2020

The Journal Record's Achievers Under 40 program recognizes Oklahoma's rising stars under the age of 40. These young leaders are the newest generation of decision makers, setting the Oklahoma Standard in business and industry. They are contributing significantly to their professions, communities and state. We congratulate this 17th class of Achievers Under 40 honorees and thank them for making Oklahoma an even better place to live.

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2020 Honorees

Maurianna Adams	4	Stephanie Keller.....	30
Cinthya Allen	6	John "Jake" M. Krattiger ...	32
Rob Allen.....	7	Jennifer Lepard.....	34
Laura Griffith Aufleger	8	Lisa McLarty.....	35
Katy Battiest	10	Autumn McMahon	36
Mereleyn Bell	11	Mark McMullen	38
Hailey Benton-Thomas.....	12	Nikki Nice	39
Carrie Blumert.....	13	Travis Noland	40
Mickey Dollens	14	Matthew Peacock.....	41
Andrea Durbin.....	15	Melissa Phillips	42
Lori Elms.....	16	Jonas Rabel.....	43
Ryan Forsythe	18	Brent Rempe.....	44
Kelley Gann	19	Diana Reynolds	46
Melissa Gardner	20	Melanie Wilson Rughani....	48
Aundria Goree.....	21	Becky Samples.....	49
Jonathan Gray.....	22	James Sanchez	50
Rachael Gruntmeir.....	23	Trista Shomo.....	51
Jordan Haygood.....	24	Brady Sidwell.....	52
Alison Heasley.....	25	Clay Taylor	53
Carri Hicks.....	26	Vincent Venincasa	54
Marcus High	27	Cornell Wesley	55
Jonathan Hillman	28	Jonna Whetsel	56
Alex Kaiser.....	29		

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Love's, the Heart of the Highway

Customers know they're getting great amenities and customer service when they see the red neon light on the highway signaling a Love's Travel Stop.

Tom and Judy Love opened the first Love's gas station in Watonga, Oklahoma, in 1964. They opened the location because they wanted customers to have a safe and clean option for getting gas and items like coffee and snacks. Now, 56 years later, customers have over 520 locations in 41 states to choose from to hear "Welcome to Love's!"

Expanding product line, focusing on cleanliness

Today, Love's provides professional truck drivers and four-wheel customers with 24-hour access to gasoline, diesel fuel, compressed natural gas, fresh coffee, restaurant offerings, dog parks and more. It's recently enhanced its own line of Love's branded products, including premium bottled water, candy, deli items and coffee, as well as items for professional truckers, including antifreeze, oil and window washing fluid.

But access to amenities and products isn't all customers can find at Love's. Since the beginning, the company has been committed to providing Clean Places, Friendly Faces. Now, more than ever, it's important for customers to have access to safe, clean and well-maintained places to stop on the road. Love's has invested more than \$2 million in cleaning and safety supplies since the COVID-19 pandemic began to help keep customers and

team members safe. Their efforts include installation of plexiglass dividers, enhanced cleaning protocols and more.

In addition to its travel stops, Love's has over 390 truck service centers, which include Speedco and on-site Love's Truck Care locations. Professional truck drivers help keep America moving, and Love's team members are dedicated to getting them back on the road safely and quickly.

Community partners

Love's has more than 26,000 team members and is looking to add more friendly faces to its team. Employees are dedicated to helping customers and local communities. This can be seen in the many ways team members give back to the communities where they live and work, including the company's yearly campaign to raise money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. This year's official campaign begins Aug. 31, but customers can help sick and injured kids now by "Rounding up the Change" at any Love's location.

"We're always looking for new ways to give back to our communities, but our annual CMN Hospitals campaign has been near and dear to us since 1999," said Jenny Love Meyer, executive vice president and chief culture officer of Love's. "We've donated more than \$31 million to this great cause in the past 20 years, and we couldn't be prouder of our customers and team members for their support of the campaign."

Potential candidates interested in joining the Love's team can visit <https://jobs.loves.com/>.

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Mabrey Bank has grown over the years through the same principles we value in our customers: hard work, integrity, and treating people with respect. What makes Mabrey unique in today's changing banking environment is the ability to offer our customers the best of both worlds – friendly and flexible service you would expect from a family-owned and operated bank with financial offerings and technology that rivals the largest national banks.

With 15 locations throughout Oklahoma (in Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Glenpool, Bixby, Haskell, Jenks, Muskogee, Okmulgee,

Wetumka, Weleetka, Oklahoma City and Morris), the bank is staffed by more than 230 professionals, and provides financial services to more than 25,000 customers. The Mabrey team builds and sustains loyal customer relationships through a professional, positive culture focused on professionalism, stewardship of community resources, high performance, integrity, reliability and teamwork.

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Guest Speaker



Calm Waters Executive Director Erin Engelke

Erin Engelke is the executive director for Calm Waters, a nonprofit in Oklahoma City that serves children and families who have experienced loss due to death, divorce or other significant loss, providing free support groups and other services.

Prior to Calm Waters, Engelke served in fundraising and public relations roles for Sunbeam Family Services, Feed the Children, World Neighbors and MidFirst Bank. She has traveled extensively around the world, including Guatemala, Albania and Peru and has a heart for seeing children and families thrive no matter where they live.

A graduate of Oklahoma Christian University, Engelke serves as president of the Oklahoma City chapter of Public Relations Society of America, board trustee of The Christian Chronicle, past president of the Oklahoma City chapter of Association of Women in Communications and an active member of the Junior League of Oklahoma City. Engelke said her greatest pride is her family – her husband, son and two daughters.

She is frequently tapped to speak on issues relating to branding, work/life balance and nonprofit leadership. Her deep-

est passion is empowering other working moms to resist the pull to achieve work-life balance, instead seeking a fulfilled life. Her expertise and real-life perspectives have been heard on stages across Oklahoma, including as a TEDx presenter in 2014 and keynote speaker for the Junior League of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Working Mom Summit and other leadership conferences. She is an Executive Coach and Trainer for Strata Leadership as well as a writer, blogger and founder of www.beautyinthebusyness.com.

Engelke, who is a member of The Journal Record's 2010 class of Achievers Under 40, was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from Oklahoma Christian University and PR Professional of the Year from the Public Relations Society of America. She has also been named a 40 Under 40 honoree from okcbiz.com and 40 Under 40 honoree from Oklahoma Magazine. Most recently, she was named one of the Top 50 Young Professionals in Oklahoma City by OKC Friday. She is also accredited in public relations through the Public Relations Society of America.

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Maurianna Adams

Executive Director

Progress OKC

After a month in her job as executive director of Progress OKC, Maurianna Adams recruited two dozen volunteers to survey neighbors door-to-door in northeast Oklahoma City to understand their views on and hopes for community development.

To do this, she formed partnerships with community-based organizations and leaders. Soon after, she convened a joint effort that could yield up to up \$5 million in community investment capital for projects benefiting the northeast area of the city and producing economic benefits citywide.

"Mrs. Adams is a lightning rod, but she's also strategic and cerebral," said Quintin S. Hughes Sr., president of Northeast OKC Renaissance Inc.

Adams said thoughtful collaboration, compassion and an entrepreneurial spirit help drive her projects. She has watched these elements in rural Oklahoma where youth designed their own health prevention education programs and in Tulsa as

mothers with adverse medical experiences help shape clinical quality improvement programs. She also has watched Oklahoma City residents envision the future of neighborhoods, pursuing equitable and inclusive community and economic opportunities as an outgrowth of that vision.

"My approach is to learn and ask questions through discovery or designed thinking exercises so gaps and assets become apparent," she said. "In my opinion, it is most effective to have a multidisciplinary lens or work with people from diverse backgrounds as we navigate both 'what' and 'how' processes. It increases our ability to see different angles and identify opportunities to strengthen resilient communities."

Nicolle Goodman, vice president of The Alliance for Economic Development in Oklahoma City, also has noticed the uniqueness of Adams' approach as a methodical visionary as she leads Progress OKC with its mission of strengthening and preserving Oklahoma City's underserved neighborhoods



through affordable housing, economic development and improving quality of life.

"She is passionate about this mission and works tirelessly toward achieving these goals," Goodman said. "She is a team player, but also an assertive leader. She is excellent at scanning the environment, but also pays attention to detail. Simply put, Maurianna Adams is a rock star."

She became Progress OKC's leader in 2019. Prior to that, she was program director for the Tulsa Community Foundation and a health

consultant for the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Adams is a board member for Northeast Oklahoma City Renaissance Inc., serves as co-chair of the Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission Taskforce and is chair of Oklahoma City Minority Enterprise Development Week. She volunteers at various nonprofit organizations including Regional Food Bank and NWIAA Sustainable Science Academy.

Adams and her husband, Adryan, have an 8-year-old son.



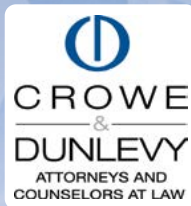
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We love you,
Clayton, Marnie, Becky, Josie,
Tripp, Clark and Chynna



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CONGRATULATIONS, TRAVIS NOLAND.

Cherokee Nation celebrates you being named one
of The Journal Record's 2020 Achievers Under 40.
Thank you for defending tribal sovereignty through
all the great work you do.



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Cinthya Allen

Director
Corporate Relations

University of Oklahoma

Cinthya Allen is passionate about diversity and inclusion and has spent her career working to advance these issues in all that she does.

Since 2019 she has been director of corporate relations at the University of Oklahoma, her alma mater. She previously worked 17 years with AT&T, most recently as area manager external affairs.

"It matters to me to be a part of the solution, whether that is financial literacy for youth, fighting domestic violence, elevating the Latino community to be influential economic pillars, and being engaged civically to create role model opportunities for youth in communities of color," Allen said.

At AT&T she supported her community through legislative impact, diversity and inclusion and leadership. She also has sought to grow employee engagement, such as by providing volunteer

and networking opportunities, mentoring, advocating for her employer's presence at cultural-focused community engagements and more.

Her current role at OU involves advancing growth in academic areas across several campuses, which means she ensures students have access to scholarships, internships, research potential employers and a successful college experience.

"Cinthya is bringing new potential partners to our institution through her strong relationships, fabulous networking skills and ability to identify mutually beneficial opportunities," said Jill Hughes, University of Oklahoma advancement. "By diving into any project large or small with a positive attitude and a focus on outcomes, Cinthya has made an impressive impact within the advancement organization and across the university."

Allen is a new board member for the Latino Community Development Agency and has joined the Network of Academic Corporate Relations Officers. She has served on the boards of YWCA of Oklahoma City



and Junior Achievement of Oklahoma City for the last four years.

In addition, she has served on the board of trustees for the University of Central Oklahoma and on the boards of the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City and Teach for America Oklahoma City. She served 10 years on the national board of HACE-MOS, an AT&T nonprofit to support the Hispanic community and college-bound students, including serving as national president for the last three years of her tenure.

Allen, who was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, said she is extremely proud of becoming a U.S. citizen.

"I regard my U.S. citizenship status in a high honor and have exercised my vote diligently since then," she said. "I share the value and responsibility with my daughters, friends, and family by reinforcing the importance of being engaged citizens. I honor the journey my family took to give me this right."

Allen has three daughters – Angel, 15, and 7-year-old twins, Isabella and Victoria.



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Rob Allen

CEO and Broker

Sage Sotheby's International Realty

After a long and decorated military career that includes two deployments to Iraq and a long list of awards, Rob Allen continues to give back to the veterans community through the Warriors for Freedom Foundation.

His military service began when he joined the U.S. Army National Guard while still in high school in Oklahoma City and then later the U.S. Army, reaching the rank of captain. Since then, Allen has distinguished himself as an attorney and now as co-founder, CEO and broker for Sage Sotheby's International Realty. He has held that position since 2015. Sage has grown from \$22 million in sales in 2017 to \$115 million in 2019.

Allen earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2005 and a law degree, magna cum laude, from the Oklahoma

City University School of Law in 2012.

Prior to Sage, Allen was a litigation attorney at Chesapeake Energy Corp.

Allen also is director and has served as president for the Association of the U.S. Army and is a life member of the National Guard Association of Oklahoma and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. In addition to the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Allen also was honored with three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals and many more medals and commendations.

Brett Dick, co-founder of the Warriors for Freedom Foundation, first noticed Allen's work ethic and passion for helping veterans through Allen's work with the Association of the U.S. Army's Thunderbird chapter and jumped at the chance to ask him to join the foundation board.



Within months, Allen became board chairman, Dick said.

"His leadership style has rejuvenated our board and staff into giving more for our nation's heroes and their families," Dick said. "Even with the incredible growth at his day job ... and the enormous workload that comes with it, he still makes time to take an active role in WFF and our fight to serve those struggling with the silent wounds of war."

Allen's other community involvement includes serving as a den leader for the Boy Scouts of America and president of Phi Delta Phi Legal Honors Fraternity, as well as being a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, St. Joseph's Society at Christ the King Catholic Church, the Oklahoma City Men's Dinner Club and Holloway Inn of Court.

He and his wife, Jennifer, have four children – Luke, Robby, Will and Audrey.



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Laura Griffith Aufleger

President

OnCue Marketing LLC

Whether it's working to meet the needs of employees or volunteering in the community, Laura Aufleger said she considers family in every decision she makes.

Aufleger is president of OnCue Marketing LLC, which has received major awards over the years like being named one of the Top Workplaces in Oklahoma, "Best Convenience Store" and other accolades.

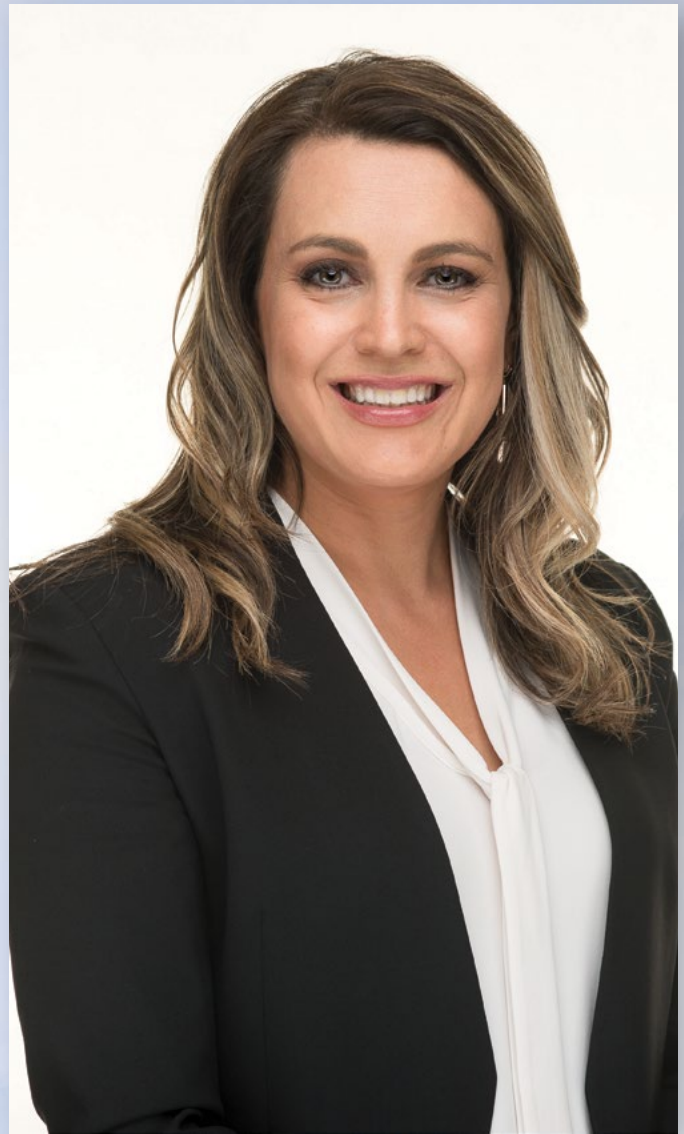
Aufleger is proud of her efforts to help launch her company's fundraiser cup program, selling reusable cups at OnCue to support local charities. This program has raised more than \$100,000 statewide to support local charities, including Oklahoma schools, Allied Arts, United Way, Folds of Honor, Oklahoma Humane Society and more. She also helped bring the National Safe Place

Program back to Oklahoma as a leading partner, so now 31 metro stores and all Stillwater stores are certified Safe Place locations.

"Her energy, leadership and professionalism outshines most anyone I have encountered in Oklahoma at any age!" said Marnie Taylor, president and CEO of the Oklahoma Center for Non-profits, adding that Aufleger's community work with the National Safe Place Program and her efforts to help raise more than \$2.3 million for St. Jude's Research Hospital shows her care and love for people.

A Stillwater native, Aufleger earned her bachelor's degree in journalism with an advertising emphasis and a minor in Spanish from the University of Oklahoma in 2006.

She started with OnCue Marketing LLC in 2000 as a sales associate. From 2006 to 2012, she worked in roles that included vice president of leasing for Direct Development and digital brand manager for The Richards Group/Click Here Agency. She returned to OnCue in 2012, focusing on special projects and then as vice president corporate communications before taking on



her current role in 2018.

Since Aufleger rejoined OnCue in 2012, the company has tripled its presence in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. She also has focused some of her efforts to better support women, especially working moms.

Aufleger's community service includes serving on the Governing Resource Board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma. She also serves on the board of Allied Arts and editorial advisory board for Convenience Store News

and is an executive leadership team member for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's Annie Oakley Society – the Little Sure Shots Leadership Team.

Convenience Store Decisions made her one of the 2020 40 Under 40 Leaders to Watch, and in 2018 Convenience Store News featured her as one of its Top Women in Convenience's Women of the Year.

She and her husband, Barrett, have three children ages 3, 6 and 8.



CONGRATULATIONS

LAURA AUFLEGER

President of OnCue

The OnCue family
is proud to
congratulate
Laura on the
well-deserved
recognition!



Congratulations Jonathan Gray

and to all the Achievers Under 40!



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Katy Tipton Battiest

Manager, Information Technology

One Gas Inc.

Katy Tipton Battiest, manager of information technology for One Gas Inc., is passionate about inspiring other women and children to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Battiest also serves as the president and executive director for Oklahoma Women in Technology. Under her direction, the organization has transitioned from an aspiring startup to an established, reputable group of more than 1,600 members statewide. Battiest spearheaded an internal leadership restructure at OKWIT, which allowed for expanded programming, and implemented a paid membership model to provide consistent funding. She also secured additional sponsorship dollars, which allowed for scholarship awards to increase. OKWIT reached more than 500 students with its high school retreats in 2019 and plans to double that

number.

“From the first time I met Katy, she was very clear on her vision for our programs, specifically in promoting and helping young women advance in STEM fields with an obvious emphasis in technology,” said Adrienne Covington Graham, executive director and CEO for the Oklahoma Engineering Foundation, Central Oklahoma Stem Alliance. “Her passion for STEM education and the advancement of women is palpable as she dedicates countless volunteer hours to increase the presence of women in the technology sector.”

Battiest earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration/management information systems from the University of Oklahoma in 2012. She worked at Oneok Inc. prior to joining One Gas in 2014. She was named to her current role of manager in June 2019.

At One Gas, Battiest has led two major, multi-year



technology implementations that have reduced manual processes significantly in the areas of Accounts Payable Invoicing and Warehouse Processing.

“Katy exemplifies the qualities of a great leader at One Gas, and, as a result, we have recognized this by promoting her twice over the last couple of years,” says Jim Langster, vice president, information technology for One Gas. “Katy’s innovative thinking has earned her the respect of her fellow colleagues.”

In addition, Battiest serves on the board of Brookside Church and has been the president of Alpha Gamma Delta Tulsa Alumnae Club since 2017. She volunteers with Route 66 Pet Rescue, Habitat for Humanity, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma and the Edison Theater Booster Club. In 2017, she was named to the Edison High School Theater Company Hall of Fame.

She is married to Jared Battiest.



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Merleyn Bell

State Representative

Oklahoma House of Representatives

As the first black woman elected to represent her district and Norman as a whole, Oklahoma state Rep. Merleyn Bell said she takes that responsibility seriously as a role model representing her community – “especially those who have felt or continue to feel marginalized by society.”

“Every voter has a voice, but even when they do participate, they may not feel heard or even acknowledged,” she said. “Representation is critical, and being at tables where decisions are made to make sure that these voices are heard and acknowledged is a positive change I’m happy and humbled to bring about.”

Bell noted that everyone who has ever told her “no” has made a significant impact on her career, but she has persisted in spite of the

challenges.

“She has shown herself to be a highly influential and effectual leader in the years that I have known her,” said Shavonne Evans with Keller Williams. “She is well on her way to being one of Oklahoma’s most impactful leaders ... I have watched her truly listen to people in her presence. She is respectful to everyone despite what they say to her or what they have said about her. This takes a level of strength, humility, and care that most people do not possess, and she does it with grace.”

A Democrat, Bell was elected to state House District 45 in 2018. She is a fifth-generation Oklahoman and an art director with over 15 years of experience in publication design, art direction, and branding. She served as art director of the University of Oklahoma’s award-winning literary magazine, *World Literature Today*, for over a decade.

Bell is a board member of the Thunderbird Clubhouse, a community service organization that supports adults with mental



illnesses. She has also served as a health and safety council member for the United Way.

The Norman Chamber of Commerce named her one of its Norman NEXT 40 Under 40 Award winners this year. She also has been a Communications All-Star Advocate for Together Oklahoma and won the 2015 Superior Staff Award from OU.

“The fact that Merleyn still prioritizes direct service to her community is a testament

to her passion for helping others, especially those in need,” said state Rep. Emily Virgin, D-Norman. “I am continually inspired by her commitment.”

Virgin added that Bell has the “rare skill” of having difficult conversations with grace that lead to finding common ground in disagreements.

She and her husband, Corey, a nurse, have a 6-year-old son.



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Hailey Benton-Thomas

Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel
TBS Factoring Services LLC

Hailey Benton-Thomas has a law degree from Pepperdine University and a bachelor's degree in industrial organization psychology.

She has served as chief operating officer for TBS Factoring Service in Oklahoma City since 2014.

During Benton-Thomas' tenure at TBS, she has helped lead the company into record-breaking revenue, transformative team processes and employee excellence, said TBS Factoring President Jennifer Lickteig. She also helped transform the company's business processes to more efficient growth-focused, cloud-based and digital platforms. In 2015, Benton-Thomas' team at TBS voted her for the company's Pinnacle Award.

"(Benton-Thomas) stands out," Lickteig said, "not just because of her keen intelligence or her focus and deter-

mination on success, but because she is actually nice. She has taught me to be kinder to my fellow teammates, helped me to see hidden talent and strengths in the team and as my business partner, Hailey is one of those rare leaders that truly makes a difference in every life she touches."

Benton-Thomas is proud of her dedication to family and friendships, despite the pull between being a mom of a 2-year-old and COO of a fast-growing company. Her work has pulled her in the direction of helping her organization with its ability to attract, retain and retrain upcoming leaders by helping them see their larger potential.

She is a member of the Oklahoma Humane Society board of directors and has served on its development and employee engagement committees. She was chairman of the Business Tech Advisory Board for Capitol

Hill High School and has been a Junior Achievement volunteer. She also has been a pro bono volunteer for the Los Angeles Adoption Law Clinic and a volunteer for Bullies and Buddies Rescue for dogs.

Benton-Thomas said her parents and mentors



taught her how to be an empathetic and service-oriented leader, and when she realized not everyone had those lessons, she packaged them into a program called the Next Level Leaders Program both at TBS and at the Oklahoma Humane Society. In the past two years, more than 60 future leaders have graduated from the program.

"More than simply a volunteer, Hailey is helping us to fundamentally transform ... our organization to meet the

demands of the next generation," said Dana R. McCrory, president and CEO, Oklahoma Humane Society. "Rarely in my professional career have I encountered a person like Hailey. She is an expert trainer and communicator, all the while acting with utmost integrity. She is a collector of people. She relates well to every age, every person."

Benton-Thomas and her husband, Jason Thomas, have two children – Jackson, 2, and Colton, a newborn.



Carrie Blumert

County Commissioner

Oklahoma County

Carrie Blumert, Oklahoma County District 1 commissioner, is the youngest female county commissioner in state history at age 33.

Blumert has a master's degree in public health from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and a bachelor's degree in child and family services from Oklahoma State University.

Prior to her election as Oklahoma County District 1 commissioner, she worked for the Oklahoma City-County Health Department for five years and for Girl Scouts. She also was an autism spectrum disorders therapist for the OU Department of Behavioral Pediatrics from 2011 to 2012.

Blumert considers leading the MAPS 4 Mental Health proposal in 2019 her most significant professional accomplishment, noting that the campaign secured \$40 million in capital funding for four new Oklahoma City

facilities focused on mental health issues, including addiction and homelessness.

"Commissioner Blumert has demonstrated a passion for helping the underserved community, particularly in the area of mental health," said Cecilia J. Robinson-Woods, superintendent for Millwood Public Schools. "Her leadership, compassion and willingness to learn has already made her one of the most responsive and respected leaders in our community."

To develop the proposal, Blumert said she met with mental health providers, addiction treatment providers, law enforcement, community activists, hospital executives, family members of those with mental illness, state agencies, city leaders, county judges and those who have spent time in the county jail.

"I have never been more proud to build a coalition like this one and fight for public funding for a need that has been overlooked for decades,"



Blumert said. "Over the next 10 years we will all get to watch our city put resources into those who truly need them."

Blumert is involved with the boards and committees for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, National Association of Counties, Circuit Engineering District 5, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments and the Oklahoma County Planning Commission, among others. She was in Leadership Oklahoma City's Class 38 and OKConnect's Class 8.

The Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health named Blumert a 2020 Scholar and the Oklahoma Democratic Party honored her with the Gov. George Nigh New Leader Award in 2019. In addition, the Center for American Islamic Relations has recognized her with its Courage Award.

Blumert is involved with ReMerge, a program for mothers facing incarceration, and has participated in the Homeless Alliance's 2020 Point in Time Count.



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Mickey Dollens

State Representative/Executive Director

Oklahoma House of Representatives
Energy Assist Foundation

Mickey Dollens did not follow a typical career path to go into politics. He tried out for a National Football League team; became a member of the U.S. Bobsled Team while living in Texas and moved to Lake Placid, New York, to train; served as a roughneck in the Oklahoma oil fields; and then became a teacher.

The tragic death of his brother by suicide after years of battling bipolar depression spurred Dollens to take action to serve others and make the world better and easier for those struggling with mental health. As a student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas at the time, the event prompted him to do more research and he learned that Oklahoma ranked low in terms of funding mental health and other quality-of-life markers.

"This means that people weren't getting the treatment

they needed fast enough to make a difference," Dollens said. "It means more casualties, more loss, and more families experiencing the suffering that mine had been through."

In 2013, he returned to his home state of Oklahoma and worked in the oil fields before deciding to make a difference as a teacher at U.S. Grant High School in south Oklahoma City. However, his teaching position was eliminated in 2016, along with 800 other teachers statewide.

"I had to change the way our state functioned," Dollens said.

So he launched his successful campaign in 2016 to represent state House District 93 in south Oklahoma City, focusing on mental health services, creating more jobs and funding education, he said.

In addition, he has served as executive director of the Energy Assist Foundation, the nonprofit arm for the



OKC Energy FC soccer team, since 2016. At the foundation, Dollens has raised more than \$510,000 to build 14 mini soccer courts for each middle school in the Oklahoma City School District.

"Mickey has an innate understanding of the challenges facing today's youth," said Tim McLaughlin, founder and president, Fields & Futures, and co-owner of OKC Energy FC. "Mickey's positive outlook on life is one of his strongest attributes. Where most people see a problem,

Mickey sees opportunity – and he has the professional maturity and acumen to create and drive change where needed."

The Oklahoma Democratic Veterans named Dollens its Oklahoma Legislator of the Year in 2019, and the nonprofit organization Generation Citizen awarded him as its 2018 Civic Leader Change Maker.

He and his wife, Taylor Dollens, have two young children – Dean and Elvy.



Andrea Durbin

Director of Interior Design

MA+ Architecture

Now that all of the final touches at Positive Tomorrows' new school for homeless children is nearly finished, the executive director said her staff is going to miss working with the team of interior designers from MA+ Architecture, including Andrea Durbin, one of the project's primary designers.

Durbin is the director of interior design for MA+ Architecture, having joined the Oklahoma City firm in 2016.

"Our experience in working with Andrea and the rest of the MA+ team has been extremely gratifying and we're facing the end of our building project with some sadness that we won't see her and the team quite so much," said Susan Agel, Positive Tomorrows executive director. "As a client, I have greatly appreciated her expertise and willingness to speak her mind. She is also detail-ori-

ented, and it has helped me significantly as she helped keep track of all the many pieces of this puzzle."

Durbin said she loves being involved with all the people at Positive Tomorrows, and she cites the school's development director, Margaret Creighton, as a mentor and role model for the impact she has had on the lives of hundreds of children, as well as her kind leadership, passion, encouraging smile and uplifting spirit.

Durbin has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Durbin was involved in the 35th Edmond Leadership class this past year and was a board of directors' intern for the Edmond Fine Arts Leadership and has since been selected to join the board for the upcoming year. She has been active in the International Interior Design Association, serving as membership, professional development and graphics chairman. She also is a board member of the Oklahoma Interior Design Coalition.

Durbin said she enjoys cheering on the younger architects and



designers in her firm.

"I believe in spreading knowledge and lifting others up personally and professionally," she said. "I feel like my achievements have given me the opportunity to serve others in my profession through collaboration and example."

In addition to Positive Tomorrows, Durbin also is involved in Hope Is Alive ministries as well as other community service activities, including mentoring college students through the Univer-

sity of Oklahoma's Interior Design program and Quail Springs Baptist Church.

"Andrea is one of the most energetic women I know or have ever had the pleasure to be around. Her enthusiasm and her love for her family, career, her community and our state, is impeccable," said Jodi R. Cline, financial adviser for Edward Jones in Ponca City.

Durbin and her husband, Drew, have a 9-year-old daughter, Brooklyn.



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Lori Elms

Senior Vice President, Director of Operations

The First State Bank

Lori Elms believes in leading by example. “Being a leader is not about a title; it is about the impact you make on others’ lives,” said Elms, senior vice president, director of operations for The First State Bank. “If I can manage a team that leaves each day feeling appreciated, encouraged, challenged and successful, this means I have done my part to help someone grow, which is more valuable to me than any title can offer.”

Elms, who has worked 10 years with The First State Bank in Oklahoma City, has been in her current role since 2016.

“Lori is an outstanding professional, mentor and colleague, but I believe she should be viewed first as an outstanding leader,” said Faith Fields, vice president, human relations manager at The First State Bank. “For more than a decade, she has been among the most visible

proponents of continuous development and progress at The First State Bank. She has served as an extraordinary role model to senior professionals in the banking industry, as well as an inspiration to the development of staff members at the beginning of their careers. Her remarkable talents for improving business processes, project management, vendor relations, customer relations, productivity and profitability make her uniquely qualified to serve well in a wide range of positions within our organization.”

Prior to joining The First State Bank, Elms held management positions at Mid-First Bank and IBC Bank. Her career started at Merrill Lynch as an adviser assistant in 2004.

A University of Oklahoma graduate, Elms also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Oklahoma Christian University.

“Lori Elms not only contributes to the bank’s



daily success with the many responsibilities she carries, but she also shares her talents and expertise to her team every day,” said Rick Simpson, owner of CFO Partner. “Her management style brings out the best in those who work alongside her. Elms’ contributions have directly resulted in the success of The First State Bank, and have also helped create a respected and sought-after place to work.”

Elms was an operations school board member for the Oklahoma Bankers Association from 2016-19. From

2011-13 she served as a board member at the Midwest City Chamber of Commerce, where she was a Leadership Graduate and named Ambassador of the Year in 2011. Elms volunteers with Positive Tomorrows, Dress for Success and Fresh Start Community Church. She also supports Wings of Edmond, the Oklahoma Humane Society, Salvation Army and United Way.

Elms and her husband, Dustin, have 7-year-old twin daughters, Lila and Archier.





**CONGRATULATIONS,
ANDREA DURBIN!**

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MA+ celebrates Director of Interior Design, Andrea Durbin on being named a 2020 Journal Record Achiever Under 40. Thank you for all you do for our clients and communities across Oklahoma!

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Ryan Forsythe

Finance Director –
Enterprise Customer Billing

Verizon

Ryan Forsythe, one of Verizon's younger directors, leads a team of 170 employees in the Tulsa Finance Center of Excellence as Verizon's finance director in Enterprise Customer Billing.

"Ryan demonstrates passion for teamwork and collaboration and has an incredibly positive attitude and desire to learn and increase his personal development," said Belinda Pruitt, Verizon director, Global Accounts Payable. "He is extremely well-respected by his superiors and executive leaders in the company and is always accessible to his employees. He inspires his team to go the extra mile and to consistently challenge the status quo to look for better ways of working."

Forsythe has shown Verizon leaders a commitment to transforming the business, eliminating waste, reducing manual work and improving the accuracy and timelessness

of transactions in ways that focus on customers, said Dante Herrera, Verizon vice president in Business Bill-to-Cash Operations.

"Ryan has a track record of high-performance, strong collaboration, and transformational vision that he consistently demonstrates regardless of the role he assumes," Herrera said. "Outside of his tremendous work ethic, he is well-respected by his senior management and peers, and demonstrates a high degree of integrity and thoughtfulness in his approach to leading people."

Prior to assuming his current role last year, Forsythe held the positions of associate director and senior manager in Global Accounts Payable at Verizon. He also has worked for IBM as a senior finance and accounting transition manager and lead accounting analyst.

Forsythe earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Tulsa in 2017 and a bachelor's degree in finance from Oklahoma State University in 2005. He also has his certified project management professional certification from the Project Management Institute.

Forsythe serves on the Tulsa Regional Chamber's Board of Advisers as well as the city of Tulsa's



Internet Access Task Force. In addition, he is a volunteer champion for Verizon's Tulsa Finance hub and is helping drive the company's effort of contributing 2.5 million volunteer hours by 2025. In 2018, he was one of 24 finance leaders across the Verizon workforce chosen to participate in its Create-Connect-Grow executive development program.

"My leadership style centers around being trustful,

knowledgeable and transparent," Forsythe said. "I am honest and genuine in all that I do, and my team knows I will fight for them and go to battle for them when needed. I encourage my team to always question the status quo and to remember that game-changing ideas can come from any level of the organization."

He and his wife, Alison, have two sons, ages 7 and 6, and live in Owasso.



Kelley Gann

President

Freestyle Creative

Kelley Gann is the president of Freestyle Creative, a full-service creative agency located in Moore.

After working as a copywriter for Ackerman McQueen, Gann joined Freestyle in 2014 to lead the marketing branch for what was then just a two-person video production company consisting of Gann and CEO and founder Vahid Farzaneh. Today, largely in part to Gann's efforts and direction, Freestyle Creative is a full-service advertising agency that has been honored with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's Metro 50 award for the fastest-growing company in both 2018 and 2019.

"I have never met a leader as hardworking, resilient, compassionate, humble, detail-oriented and trustworthy as Kelley Gann," said Farzaneh. "The culture in our company stems from her character, and her hard work and personality have helped

Freestyle double revenue each year since she started. She pushes herself to continually learn while challenging herself to push beyond her comfort zone."

Gann graduated with honors from the University of Oklahoma in 2013. She has been recognized with many awards for her achievements, including several ADDYs. In 2020, she was named Distinguished Young Alumna by the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Gann is also a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma LOYAL Class XIII.

Since 2016, Gann has been heavily involved with the American Advertising Federation of Oklahoma City, and in 2019 her successes landed her the role of chairman on the board of directors. She also serves on the board for the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College JayMac Alumni Association. Gann enjoys mentoring students and helping the younger generation. As a former board member of Ad2OKC, a



networking group for young advertising professionals, she led a student ambassador program. Gann's outreach also includes regular speaking engagements at universities, where she addresses students about her industry.

Since 2016, Gann has been on the volunteer leadership council for the American Cancer Society of Oklahoma City, an organization that is close to her heart. She has led several large fundraising campaigns for the group.

"Kelley has been instrumental in helping us

strengthen our brand and promote our events in new, more effective ways," said Lesa Foster, executive director, American Cancer Society Oklahoma City. "She has also recruited new volunteers, donors and supporters for our organization."

Gann is passionate about supporting the arts and particularly Oklahoma's film industry, where she has been honored to work as a film producer.

Gann and her husband, Garret, reside in Norman.



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Melissa Gardner

Director/Shareholder

Phillips Murrah

Melissa R. Gardner, a native of Empire, Oklahoma, was named a director/shareholder at Phillips Murrah in 2016 at age 35 after starting with the firm as an associate in 2013.

Prior to working at Phillips Murrah, she was a senior title attorney for Chesapeake Energy for six years.

Gary Heinen with The Title Law Group PLLC was Gardner's immediate supervisor at Chesapeake.

"Working with Melissa was a pleasure," Heinen said. "In addition to her intelligence and work ethic, what made working with Melissa unique was her loyalty. She stood steadfastly behind me as her supervisor and Chesapeake as her employer in accomplishing all goals, large and small. She was a leader among her group of peers with flare and style. She led with integrity and personality. People believed in what

she told them, and eagerly worked with her when given the opportunity."

Gardner's community service includes serving on the boards of Heartline Oklahoma and One Collective, a global nonprofit based in Elgin, Illinois. She was a member of the Kuntz Conference planning committee in 2019. She also has volunteered with the Oklahoma City Real Property Lawyers Association and the Prairie Dance Theatre.

Alison Estus, accounting contractor with Mach Resources, first volunteered with Gardner when they both worked at Chesapeake.

"I was impressed by Melissa's consistent willingness to volunteer for any and all projects presented to employees to help improve our community, whether that was mentoring at a local elementary school, doing a trash pickup along Western Avenue or donating her time and talents to help with vari-



ous events," Estus said.

Estus and Gardner also worked together on the board of the Prairie Dance Theatre, where Gardner's "leadership, creativity and dedication to teamwork with the board and staff of PDT led to implementation of their Smart Moves programming, which provides a free comprehensive, in-school dance program to multiple OKC partner schools."

She holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a Juris Doctor

from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was a Thomas Allan Steele Jr. Endowed Scholarship recipient. Gardner was the first of her family to be admitted to and complete graduate school.

"I believe that truly investing in those around you – their professional pursuits, their personal lives, and their civic interests – make the world a better place," Gardner said. "I believe that kindness and personal relationships better all aspects of life."



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Aundria Goree

Director, Mission and Community Health
Mercy Hospital

As early as elementary school, Aundria Goree wanted to help others. Instead of going out to play at recess, she volunteered with special needs children and enjoyed every minute of her time with them.

She showed the same desire to help others while attending college, said her mother, Cynthia L. Woody, a certified project management professional.

“Aundria is a compassionate, selfless, innovative, and talented professional who began her 13-year career in public health at the very young age of 20, two and a half years before obtaining her undergraduate degree,” Woody said of Goree’s work with children and teens with autism and other mental health and behavioral disorders at Camelot of Oklahoma.

In April, Goree began working for Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City as director of mission and community

health.

Most recently, Goree was the Oklahoma City-County Health Department’s population health manager. Previously, she served the agency as community health administrator, interim clinical supervisor and clinical coordinator. While serving at OCCHD, Goree’s team was recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials as a “model practice,” receiving an Award for Chronic Disease Prevention Place-Based Strategies in 2016-17. Her teams also were recognized as team of the quarter and the year from the OCCHD that same fiscal year.

Prior to working at OCCHD, she worked for Easter Seals Oklahoma, Southern Oklahoma Treatment Services and Camelot of Oklahoma.

Goree said her most significant professional accomplishment stems from building nontraditional, cross-sector collaborations and partnerships to improve health outcomes for vulnerable Oklahomans. This includes an effort involving community health workers that saved two major hospital systems \$400,000, she said.

“Aundria’s work and service contribute significantly to the pub-



lic health profession as well as the well-being of communities across Oklahoma,” said Kerstin M. Reinschmidt, an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. “Aundria is friendly, professional, and a delight to work with. She deeply cares about communities, and about creating space and abundant opportunities for Oklahoma’s diverse communities to thrive.”

As a member of the Oklahoma Public Health Association, Goree serves as its Community Health Worker

Section chairman and president-elect. She volunteers as a youth mentor for the Oklahoma City Police Department’s gang-prevention program known as Family Awareness and Community Teamwork and serves on the communications team at her church, The Gate Church.

Goree enjoys Sunday brunches with her family; spending time with her husband, Joel Sr., and son, Joel Jr. (J2); going clay shooting; and having game and movie nights.



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Jonathan Gray

Manager, U.S. South Central Region,
Public Policy and Institutional Affairs

Enel Green Power North America

After dedicating almost a decade to politics, Jonathan Gray now works with Enel Green Power North America as a manager of its U.S. South Central Region on the Public Policy and Institutional Affairs team.

"In my current position, I'm extremely proud and excited to be working on the front lines of the energy transition, where Oklahoma is a leader in wind energy production and quite literally making the world a cleaner and more sustainable place to live," Gray said. "I also get to work on electrification, including electric vehicle policy."

From 2013-18, Gray worked with U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin most recently as legislative director. Prior to that, he worked with U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn as a legislative correspondent after interning with U.S. Sen.

James Inhofe in 2009.

"Jonathan spent five years in my Washington, D.C. office, with much of his time focused on energy, defense and transportation policy," Mullin said.

"He found unique ways to get legislative priorities passed and actively worked with other members in both the House and Senate to find ways to accomplish shared goals. As my legislative director, Jonathan was an asset in leading our team. He proved himself to be an extremely hard worker and keen problem-solver, always providing well-thought-out advice on legislation. I know Jonathan will continue to work to make Oklahoma a better place, and am excited to see what else is in store for him."

Enel Green Power honored Gray with its Megawatt Award in 2018. In 2014, he was a Wilson Foreign Policy Fellow from The Wilson Center. Gray joined The Oklahoma Academy board of directors in 2020.

Since 2018, he has served on the board of directors of the State Chamber of Oklahoma as well as the board of advisers of



the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce. Gray serves on the board of Advanced Power Alliance and recently was elected as vice chair of its executive committee.

Gray has a bachelor's degree in political science from Oklahoma State University, spending a semester abroad in Dubai.

Oklahoma state Rep. Nicole Miller met Gray while he was on Mullins' staff in

Washington, D.C.

"In working with Jonathan, I saw firsthand the level of professionalism, commitment and work ethic that is required of a public servant," Miller said. "Now that Jonathan has moved back to Oklahoma, I know that he is bringing that same drive to make his state a better place to live in."

Originally from Owasso, 32-year-old Gray resides in Edmond with his wife, Jennifer.



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Rachael Gruntmeir

Owner

The Black Scintilla

When Rachael Gruntmeir opened a retail shop called The Black Scintilla in 2015, she said her personal goal was to have more flexibility in order to pursue her love of travel.

"I was opening the business for personal reasons," Gruntmeir said. "However, that quickly changed. Once I began to plant my roots in Midtown, I quickly fell in love with the neighborhood, its people from all walks of life and realized that I could have an impact on my community."

She went on to co-found the Midtown Walkabout, a biannual event that promotes Midtown merchants and celebrates the local community. She also created Boss Lady Thursdays, a networking opportunity for fellow female entrepreneurs.

"Rachael has been a cheerleader for the Midtown district as well as the Holiday Pop-Up Shops," said Alli-

son Bailey, Holiday Pop-Up Shops producer.

"Rachael's volunteerism in Midtown has resulted in a thriving merchant association and a collaborative spirit. She organizes retailers to work together and support each other and communicates regularly to the business owners as a whole."

A prime example of this is seen in her annual Teacher Appreciation Day event.

An Enid native, Gruntmeir graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in interior design with a minor in art history. She also holds an associate degree from Oklahoma State University in business administration and marketing.

"Rachael is talented, skilled, professional and passionately dedicated to providing the best service for her customers," said Midtown Renaissance President Mickey Clagg.

Gruntmeir serves on the board of the Midtown Asso-



ciation and is a Small Business Saturday Neighborhood champion and an Adventure Road travel partner. She also is a member of the Independent Shopkeepers Association and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. Last year, Gruntmeir was invited by the National Retail Foundation to represent small businesses around the country by participating in the Congressional E-Commerce caucus in partnership with Amazon in D.C. on Capitol Hill. Her community involvement also includes supporting Pine

Pantry, volunteering at The Food Bank, and donating to local philanthropic causes on a monthly basis.

"A community relies on young, creative entrepreneurs not just willing to open new businesses, but also willing to build networks with others in their field or their geographic area," said Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt. "OKC is thriving thanks to young people like Rachael. Her business has become a notable retail establishment in our city, fueled by Rachael's work ethic and creativity."

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Jordan Haygood

Director of Managed Care

SSM Health - Oklahoma

One of the lessons Jordan Haygood, director of Managed Care for SSM Health – Oklahoma, said is key to his success is to use the power of choice.

“Every day we wake up and are gifted with the opportunity to choose how we go about life,” Haygood said. “While we may not be fortunate enough to choose what happens to us, we choose how we respond and how we react.”

After graduating from law school at the Oklahoma City School of Law in 2013, Haygood opened his own family law practice. He joined the SSM Health staff as legal counsel in 2016 and later served as senior legal counsel before being named to his current position in February.

“Jordan is personally responsible for resurrecting this office, and creating

a productive, professional atmosphere from which we have been given the base to be successful,” said Lisa Bradford, regional manager, corporate responsibility for SSM Health, St. Anthony Hospital. “He is energetic, pleasant, competent and trustworthy. He is a natural leader who fights hard for his beliefs, and is consciously proactive at getting full involvement of all other team members to derive the best results possible.”

Haygood was selected to be a member of the Mission Awareness Team at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Oklahoma City in March 2017, an honor bestowed on approximately 20 employees selected to represent the hospital in pursuit of its mission and philanthropy.

In January 2020, Haywood took on the role of president with the Oklahoma Bar Association Young Lawyers

Division, a group that he started volunteering with in 2015. In 2016, he received the group’s Director of the Year award. He was elected to lead the group of more than 3,000 young lawyers as well as represent them in the Oklahoma Board of Gover-



nors and as the Oklahoma Delegate to the American Bar Association.

Haywood is also a member of the financial budget committee and the solo small firm planning committee with the Oklahoma Bar Association. He has been a board member with Rebuilding Together OKC since 2019 and served three years on the board of the Diversity Center of Oklahoma Inc.

“Jordan is driven, enterprising and communi-

ty-minded. He is dedicated to improving the lives of his fellow Oklahomans via his work in the field of law, his leadership at the Oklahoma Bar Association and through his volunteer service to our community,” said Amy Roff, deputy director of Oklahoma AmeriCorps. “As a friend, Jordan is caring, giving, patient, nonjudgmental and loyal.”

A native of White Oak, Texas, 33-year-old Haygood is married to Marty Coltrane.



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Alison Heasley

Project Manager & Architect

ADG PC

At just 34 years old, Alison Heasley, project manager and architect for ADG PC, is changing the Oklahoma City skyline with her work on the historic First National Center building in downtown.

The Cincinnati, Ohio, native attended Ball State University for undergraduate and graduate school, earning her master's degree in architecture in 2010. She started at ADG as an intern architect in 2015 after holding an intern architect position with Cox, Kliewer & Company in Virginia Beach for four years.

James Witcher, principal and director of architecture at ADG, described Heasley as a "careful leader on a personal scale."

"As (Heasley) navigates conflicts and solves problems, she does so with clarity of purpose, gentle humor and an ear willing to listen to the concerns of others," Witcher said. "She is an essential component of ADG's goal of

developing the next generation of fine Oklahoma City architects."

Colleague Betsy Brunsteter, principal and project manager at ADG, said Heasley is an inspiration to women in architecture.

"I love the way Alison tackles challenges and communicates completely. She has this incredible way of putting people at ease, even in the most stressful situation," Brunsteter says. "Alison focuses on mentoring her team members to become their best, whether that means explaining a building system or showing how to become a better leader."

Heasley has been involved with three large Cornerstone Development projects since her arrival at ADG. She was the lead architect on Terra Apartments, a \$50 million, 303-unit complex in Norman; and Argon Apartments, a \$48 million, 287-unit property in Chisholm Creek that recently was named Property of the Year by the Apartment



Association of Oklahoma.

Cornerstone President and CEO Gary Brooks specifically requested Heasley take a lead role in the First National project.

"The \$300 million project has generated extensive architectural and engineering challenges, requiring Alison to understand and solve complex renovation details. More challenging, at times, has been the need to professionally manage and lead a team of more than 50 architects, engineers, design experts,

and some 16 different companies that we brought under the ADG umbrella to handle a specific piece of the design for this multifaceted project," Brooks says. "But her greatest quality, at least for me as the owner of this great building, is the personal commitment to our team, to the historical importance of the building, and for the care and concern she brings to the project."

Heasley and her husband, Kevin, have a 4-year-old son, Andrew.

Carri Hicks

State Senator

Oklahoma State Senate

Carri Hicks is an Oklahoma state senator for Senate District 40, the first female senator to hold the seat for that district.

Hicks, who has a teaching background, joined the Legislature in November 2018. She taught elementary students at Putnam City Schools before joining the staff at Deer Creek Schools, where she was named a National Blue Ribbon Teacher at Grove Valley Elementary in 2017 by the U.S. Department of Education.

“When Carri announced that she would be entering the political arena, we were sad to lose her,” said Dr. Kelly McCoy, federal programs director for Deer Creek Schools. “However, we understood her calling to make a difference on a bigger stage, and believed our community and state needed more people like Carri. She is smart, thoughtful and a woman of

integrity.”

Hicks earned her bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma City University with a double major in political science and mass communications. She went on to earn a master’s degree in leadership management from OCU in 2009 and a master’s degree in education from Capella University in 2013. In 2019, she was awarded the Gaylord McCasland Teacher Fellowship by the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

“Senator Hicks has distinguished herself as a passionate and powerful advocate for Oklahoma’s most vulnerable citizens, particularly children,” said State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister. “As a legislator, she has been a valued collaborator and staunch proponent for kids. She is smart, tenacious and unflaggingly civil.”

In addition to her role as a legislator, Hicks has served as an adjunct professor at OCU since August 2019.

Hicks volunteers as a board member with Self-Healing Communities of Putnam City School District and is a member of Rotary Club 29. She is committed to supporting caus-



es related to diabetes, serving as chair for the State Diabetes Caucus and a member of Insulin4All Oklahoma.

“Carri is a hardworking, compassionate and caring leader for her community and our state. Her campaign was inspiring, and reflected her true character as an educator, a leader and a person,” said Senate Democratic Leader Kay Floyd, D-Oklahoma City. “After Carri was elected,

she quickly became a leader in the Democratic Caucus. I entrusted her with being a leading voice on education and health care. I rely on her for tasks I would regularly reserve for a much senior legislator because I trust her work ethic and ability to get things done.”

Hicks and her husband, Spencer, have three children: Sawyer, age 6; Holli, 3; and Camilla, age 2.



Marcus High

Manager, Community Health & Access and Outpatient Diabetes Management

Mercy Hospital Ardmore

During his time as an academic college adviser, Marcus High grew frustrated at watching students spend so much energy and time toward a major only to decide to change the educational path into another.

When he joined Mercy Hospital Ardmore as manager of community health and access and outpatient diabetes management, he launched a teen shadowing program to expose high school students to health care career options. High said most of the 60 students who have graduated from the program are in college working toward degrees in health care.

"The students got the opportunity to experience various departments, which assisted them in narrowing down their degree choices," High said.

Daryle Voss, president of Mercy Hospital Ardmore, said High possesses a unique talent and passion for helping others reach their full potential.

"Whether through our community health workers, our diabetes prevention program or work underway to start a clinic for our underserved, Marcus has been at the center of it all bringing unparalleled passion, energy and ideas to the table," Voss said.

Oklahoma State Department of Health Region 8 Director Mendy Spohn applauded High's success to bring together leaders across all sectors of the community to design, implement and evaluate community health improvement programs.

"Marcus is making a difference in health care and in how our region is finding local solutions to the growing challenges in community health," Spohn said.

Prior to joining the staff at Mercy Hospital Ardmore in 2016, High worked three years as an academic adviser at Murray State College and three years as a university recruiter/admissions counselor at his alma mater, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



High holds two graduate degrees, earning a master's degree in sports studies and athletic administration from Southeastern and a master's in health care administration from Oklahoma State University-Center for Health Sciences.

High is a graduate of the Leadership Exchange Academy and a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class 31. He received the Ardmore Young Professionals Rising Star Award in 2018.

He serves on the advisory

boards for Southern Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Boys and Girls Club of Red River Valley and city of Ardmore Parks & Recreation as well as on the city of Ardmore Planning Commission. He also serves on the boards of the Southern Oklahoma Higher Education Foundation, Ardmore Family Literacy and Southeastern Oklahoma State University Alumni.

High and his wife, Taylor, have an 8-year-old son, Nolan.



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Jonathan Hillman

Director

BKD CPAs & Advisors

From passing the CPA exam on the first try to running marathons, Jonathan Hillman believes he can do whatever he sets his mind to.

“I’ve always strived to never quit when things get tough and when you get to the other side of the difficulty you are always better coming out on the other side,” said Hillman, a director of BKD CPAs & Advisors.

Hillman earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting with a minor in speech communications and a master’s degree in accounting with an emphasis on tax from Oklahoma State University.

“Jonathan’s standards of excellence, values and unmatched generosity are just a few reasons why he is known as an emerging, influential professional in the office and community,” said Brian D. West, partner at BKD CPAs & Advisors. “We are thank-

ful to have Jonathan on our team and eagerly await his bright future. His demeanor, character and selflessness are truly unmatched.”

Hillman is also the founding secretary of the Construction Financial Management Association’s Oklahoma chapter, serving the group since 2016. With his assistance, the group is working to bring a regional CFMA conference to north-east Oklahoma.

In 2018, Hillman received the Trailblazer Award from the Oklahoma Society of CPAs.

“Jonathan is one of the most outstanding young men that I have ever been around. He is very resourceful and intelligent,” said James N. Oakes Jr., CPA with Oakes & Associates. “He is a problem-solver, and has amazing initiative balanced with humility that allows him to present himself in a warm and helpful manner.”



Active in his community, Hillman is the treasurer and board member for the Sooner Rowing Association, where he played a pivotal role in re-organizing and rebuilding its Tulsa boathouse after arson so it could reopen in spring 2019. He also serves on the board for the March of Dimes Tulsa and was a Tulsa Run Committee member last year. Since 2015, Hillman has been a member of the steering and events committees for the Tulsa Area United Way Emerging Leaders Society.

“Throughout his service to ELS, Jonathan has continued to be an active, vocal member of the steering committee, providing insight, opinions and a generally positive contribution to this group of diverse, active and motivated young professionals in the Tulsa area,” said Heidi Braver, TAUW volunteer experience director.

Hillman and his wife, Mysha, have three children: Ellarie, 9; Everleigh, 7; and Emelia, 5.



Alex Kaiser

Vice President

Simmons Bank

After graduating magna cum laude from Oklahoma State University with a degree in economics, Alex S. Kaiser earned his Juris Doctorate at the University of Tulsa College of Law with highest honors and being named to the Order of Curule Chair. In addition to being a licensed attorney, Kaiser holds the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designation.

Kaiser began his legal career practicing with his father, Curtis W. Kaiser, in trust and estate law before taking a position as landman with Chesapeake Energy Corp., where he served in roles of increasing responsibility. In 2015, Kaiser transitioned to a career in the banking industry as a wealth management professional in the trust and estate planning sector. He worked for the Trust Company of Oklahoma for three years before joining

Bank of Oklahoma's Private Wealth Division as a vice president. Last year, Kaiser jumped at the opportunity to help lead the expansion of the Simmons Bank Trust and Wealth Management Division in Oklahoma as vice president.

"Simmons intended to build a trust platform in the Oklahoma market, and we needed talented individuals with a demonstrated customer-focused skill set and the legal credentials to establish the group," said Mark Funke, former president of the Southwest Division of Simmons Bank. "Alex Kaiser was the perfect candidate to fill that role. He is young, aggressive, goal-oriented, customer-focused and possesses the necessary legal background to develop and manage solid client relationships. Of equal importance was his community service background, which is critical to developing relationships with bank clients and improving our community."

Kaiser serves on the executive council for the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, where he is a member of the Jim Thorpe Award Selection Committee. He is also a member of the



Downtown Club of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma City's Downtown Rotary Club 29. As a mentor in the YMCA's Y Achievers Program, Kaiser volunteers with students in lower-income public high schools. He also donates his time at The Children's Center Rehabilitation Hospital, where he recently completed a three-year term on the foundation board. He now serves as secretary of the board.

In addition, Kaiser is a member of Leadership

Oklahoma City's Signature Class 38 and a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City's LOYAL Class XII. He is also a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and Oklahoma County Bar Association.

Kaiser and his wife, Jennifer, have a 3-year-old daughter, Drew Kate, and an infant son, Brady. When not working or spending time with his family, Kaiser enjoys golfing, reading, exercising, traveling and all things Oklahoma State athletics.



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Stephanie Keller

Tax Manager

Eide Bailly

Stephanie Keller, tax manager at Eide Bailly, said the key to her success is having the knowledge that she does not know everything.

“I do not try to pretend to be better or smarter than I am,” said Keller, a certified public accountant. “I am honest with myself and others about the things I am not good at instead of attempting to put up a front. I then seek out people who are more experienced than me in those areas and try to learn everything I can from them. I want to continue to improve myself and faking perfection is the enemy of this.”

“When Stephanie came to us in 2015, we very quickly realized what a gem we now had,” said Kelley J. Grace, tax partner at Eide Bailly. “She immediately took on many leadership roles in the office

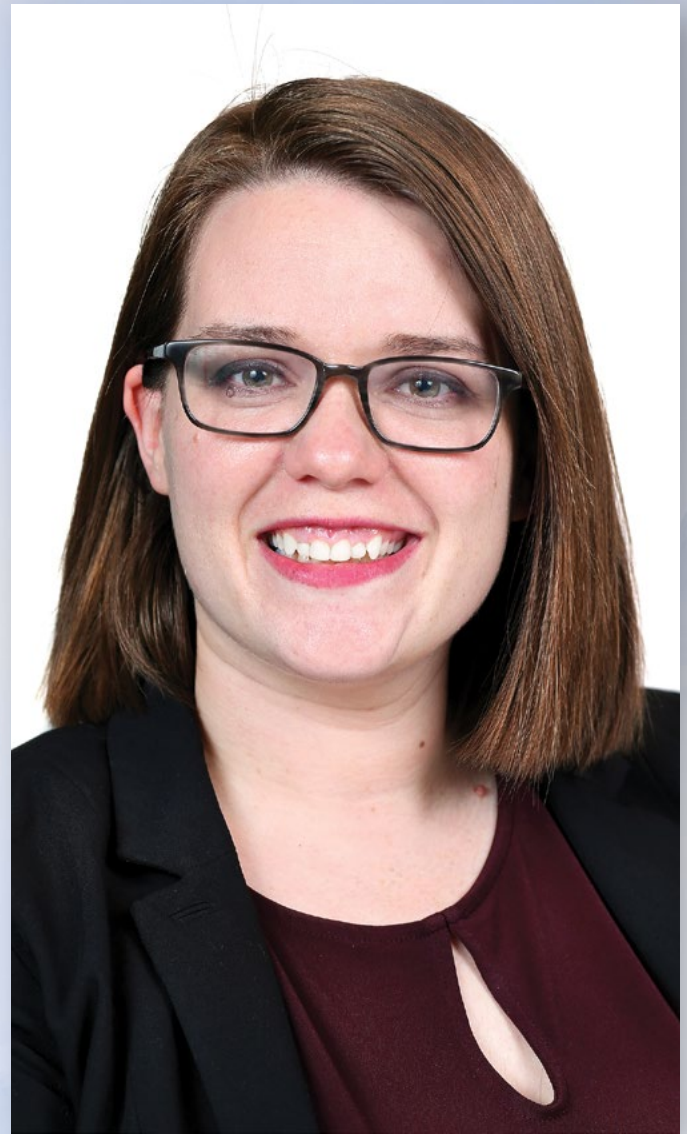
and in the community. ... She takes on any project, no matter how messy, and figures it out. Our staff loves her and so do our clients.”

Prior to joining Eide Bailly, Keller was a staff accountant at Mathis Brothers Furniture from 2013-15. She worked as a senior teller at MidFirst Bank from 2008-13.

Working full-time while attending school, Keller earned her associate degree in business from Oklahoma City Community College in 2012. In 2015, she completed her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Mid-America Christian University, becoming the first person in her extended family to earn a college degree.

She is a 2019 Leadership Moore Graduate and a member of the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants, where she has also been an editorial board member since 2017.

In 2013, Keller was part of the group that began an organization, now called Serve More, in response to the devastating May tornadoes. At one time,



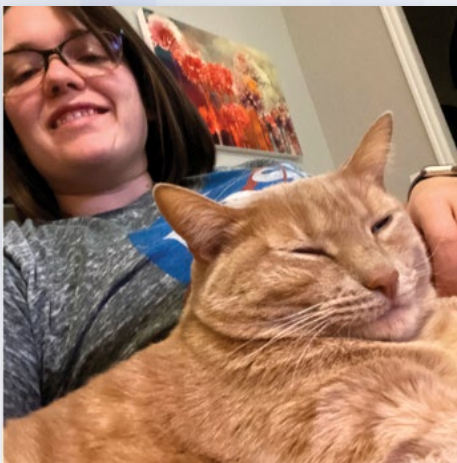
more than 45,000 volunteers were a part of the group's response. She has served as treasurer of the group since 2017.

“I have had the pleasure of knowing Stephanie for five years, and I know her to be a consummate professional, and someone committed to bettering her community and the lives of others,” said Leslie D. Christopher, owner of Bricks 4 Kidz-Central Oklahoma. “Stephanie is ded-

icated, intelligent, reliable and kind. She seeks out opportunities to engage with others and is available to serve where she is needed.”

Keller also gives back to the community by volunteering with Meals on Wheels of Norman, Moore Food Resource Center, Regional Food Bank and Shop with a Cop.

In her spare time, she enjoys embroidery, spending time with family and friends, and bingeing TV shows.





Alex Kaiser

Congratulations Alex Kaiser!

Join us in commending Alex on being named one of The *Journal Record's* *Achievers Under 40*. As part of the next generation of leaders, Alex is dedicated to the Oklahoma market. Let us put our experience to work for you.



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Eide Bailly helps businesses and individuals in Oklahoma embrace opportunities and achieve their goals. We're proud to support The *Journal Record* and this year's "Achievers Under 40." Congratulations to our own **Stephanie Keller** for being recognized!



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John M. "Jake" Krattiger

Shareholder

GableGotwals

After earning his Juris Doctor with honors from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2011, John M. "Jake" Krattiger began his career as an associate with GableGotwals. He was named a shareholder at the firm in 2019.

Krattiger has been included in Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in Business Litigation and Energy and Natural Resources from 2015-19.

"Jake is a talented litigator, representing clients in complex commercial litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts," said Amy Stipe, president of GableGotwals. "He is continuously building his network and connecting others internally and externally."

Krattiger is a member and outgoing chair of the GableGotwals 2035 Committee, where committee members work to understand and analyze the forces that

will materially affect the firm's business model in 2035 and the opportunities and challenges that will result, Stipe said.

He also has served on the firm's recruiting committee, spending significant time interviewing law students, helping to plan and attending recruiting events as well as mentoring the firm's summer associates.

Krattiger is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City's LOYAL Class IX.

He has served as a board member of the Federal Bar Association's Oklahoma City chapter since 2017 and been a member and treasurer for the litigation section at the Oklahoma Bar Association since 2015. Krattiger donates his time with Oklahoma Lawyers for Children and has volunteered as a member and chair of the legal committee of the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City, receiving a presidential citation for



outstanding service to club in 2019.

"Jake is considered one of the top young attorneys in Oklahoma and has an excellent reputation with judges, clients and other members of the bar association," said Rob F. Robertson, a shareholder and director at GableGotwals. "He is a natural litigator and combines that skill with his superior intellect to represent clients in a variety of very complicated energy and complex commercial disputes in federal and state district courts as well as the appellate

courts. From Jake's first days as a lawyer, he has always worked well with others, and clients are constantly singing his praises and requesting to work with him more in the future. He uses his optimistic attitude, strong leadership skills and seemingly inexhaustible energy to go to the extra effort in making the community and state a better place."

A Norman native, Krattiger and his wife, Lane, have three children: Everett, 6; Cooper, 3; and Audrey, 1.



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Congratulations to Jake Krattiger and all Achievers Under 40!



Jake Krattiger is a shareholder in the Oklahoma City office of GableGotwals. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts, with an emphasis on representing energy industry clients. Jake serves on the Board of Directors at the Federal Bar Association's Oklahoma City Chapter, is a member and Treasurer for the Litigation Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association, is a member of the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City, and is past-Chair of the Lawyers for Learning Committee at the Oklahoma County Bar Association.

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Jennifer Lepard

Chief Administrative Officer

Oklahoma State Department of Health

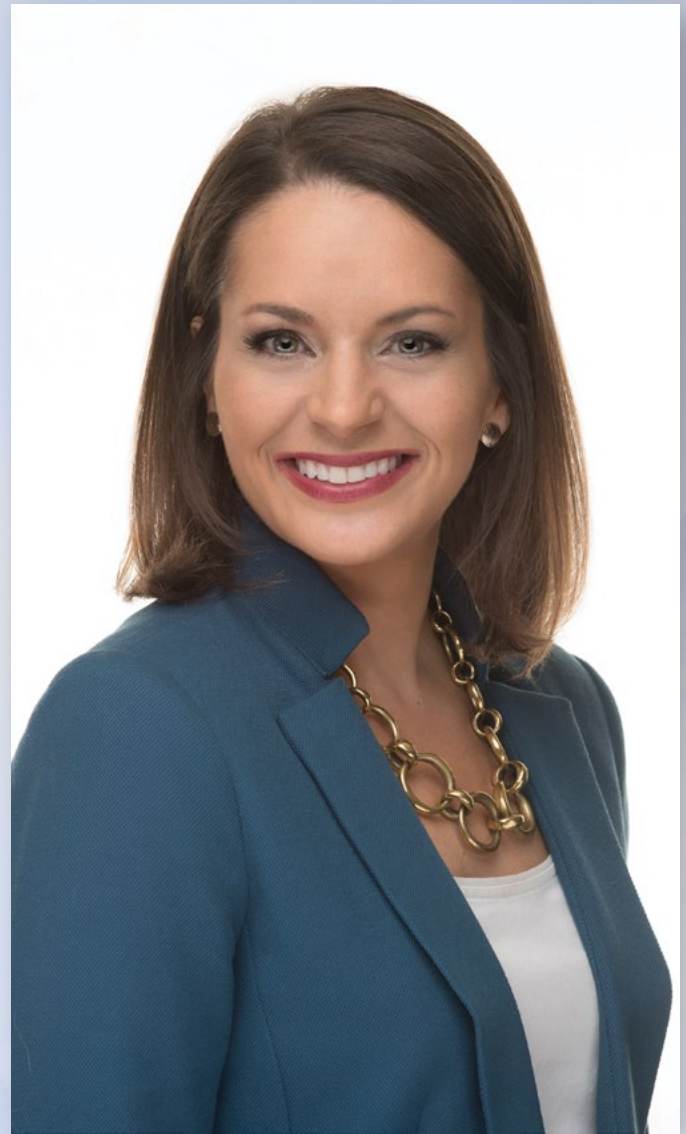
In June, Jennifer Lepard returned to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, this time as chief administrative officer.

Immediately prior to her current role, Lepard worked more than five years as the executive director for the State Chamber Research Foundation. In that role, she led the efforts behind OK2030, a business-led strategic action plan designed to put Oklahoma at the top of national rankings by the year 2030. The Oklahoma City native spent three years with the State Chamber as vice president of government affairs prior to that.

"I witnessed Jennifer grow her leadership skills during her time with the State Chamber as a government affairs expert," said Fred S. Morgan, former president and CEO of the State Chamber of Oklahoma. "In all her endeavors, I have known

Jennifer to be an intelligent and dedicated professional. Her passion for improving the state drives both her work and personal life, which has earned her the respect of her colleagues, state policymakers and members of the business community."

Lepard previously worked for the State Department of Health as director of its Center for the Advancement of Wellness and manager of the tobacco use and prevention program. Her career also includes work as a lobbyist and legislative analyst. Since 2013, she has been adjunct faculty with the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health, where she enjoys teaching and, in particular, mentoring graduate students who are also working full-time like she did when she pursued her doctorate. Lepard earned her doctorate in public health from OU in 2011. She also has a master's degree in public administra-



tion and a bachelor's degree from OU.

Lepard was a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class 32, where she was honored as ambassador in 2019. She served on the Leadership Oklahoma OKC Planning Committee from 2017-18. She also spent three years as deputy treasurer for the State Chamber Political Action Committee Board from 2015-18.

"Through her tireless work with business leaders, policymakers and community

partners, Jennifer has already left an indelible mark on our state," said Bill G. Lance, secretary for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Commerce. "Jennifer is very smart and passionate about her work, and she is extremely dedicated to improving our state."

Lepard and her husband, Shawn, have two daughters: Madeline, 6; and Charlotte, 3. She enjoys volunteering her time as a leader for her daughter's Girl Scout Troop.



Lisa McLarty

Senior Vice President, Director of Marketing
Mabrey Bank

Lisa McLarty said the key to her success has simply been to say, “yes.”

“By keeping an open mind and agreeing to take on challenges and roles that were slightly out of my comfort zone, I have had an opportunity to truly grow and experience things I never would have otherwise,” McLarty said.

She started her career as a social worker at Associated Centers for Therapy and then did resource development at Big Brothers Big Sisters before switching paths to join Red Bull North America as manager of its Eastern Oklahoma Marketing Team. She later spent 11 years with BOK Financial in various roles before joining Mabrey Bank as senior vice president, marketing director in 2018.

“Lisa handles every situation or encounter with honesty, integrity and a desire to achieve great results,” said Mabrey Bank CEO Scott P. Mabrey. “Lisa is a highly

effective leader that people respect and want to follow. She is also an excellent communicator and great at building relationships with people from every walk of life. She has the ability to analyze any problem or issue and provide a recommendation that is carefully thought out, well-reasoned and solves the problem.”

McLarty has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Central Oklahoma and a master’s in human relations from the University of Oklahoma. In 2014, McLarty earned an Executive Coach Certification from Manager School.

Her community involvement includes serving on the board of the Tulsa Area United Way.

“In Tulsa, Lisa is respected and considered a peer leader with people much older than she is due to her ability to bring people together in collaborative networks that drive real change,” said Alison Anthony, president and



CEO of Tulsa Area United Way.

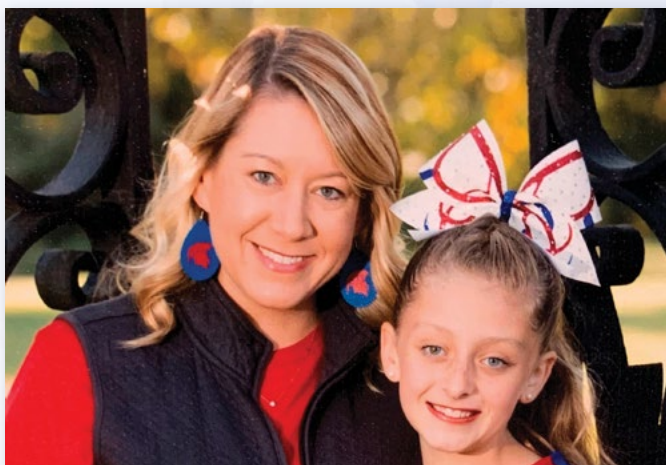
McLarty was a 2017 Leadership Tulsa participant, and now sits on its curriculum committee. She also serves on the Parent Child Center of Tulsa Board and the Tulsa Dream Center Board of Advisors.

“I have come to know Lisa as a truly valuable asset to the team, and an honest, dependable and incredibly hardworking leader,” said Aaron Johnson, executive director for the Tulsa Dream Center. “Beyond that, Lisa is

an incredible communicator who always makes everyone feel valued. She is a true team player, and always manages to foster positive discussions and bring the best out of other team members.”

McLarty, who served on the board of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma from 2015 to 2018, was awarded the organization’s honor pin for outstanding volunteer service.

McLarty and her husband, Greg, have two daughters: Olivia, 10, and Meredith, 6.



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Autumn McMahon

Marketing and Member Relations Manager

Oklahoma Electric Cooperative

Autumn McMahon has been making an impact in Norman since she was just a teenager. Born in 1983 in Breckenridge, Colorado, McMahon spent her formative years growing up in Norman, where she received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

"When Autumn McMahon was a teenager, she wanted to make sure the decision-makers in the Norman community were getting input from and listening to younger voices, so she started a nonprofit called Teen Advisors of Norman," said Diana Hartley, political science professor at the University of Oklahoma. "Since then, the city of Norman has added youth positions to boards and commissions, nonprofits have done the same, and the

school district now includes students in strategic planning efforts. There isn't a young professional under the age of 40 that has accomplished so much, had such positive influence on others and made such a dramatic impact in Norman."

McMahon began working for Oklahoma Electric Cooperative in 2015 and has served in her current role of marketing and member relations manager for more than three years.

"Autumn ascended into a leadership position very quickly once she joined our team. She quickly established that she was excellent in her initial role," said Patrick Grace, CEO of OEC. "She demonstrated a dynamic leadership that greatly inspired others, and a vision to take the team and our entire company to new heights. She

is an incredible leader that has the ability to bring people together, share thoughtful ideas, listen to others and lead by example."

Community service is a priority for McMahon, who has a long resume of



volunteer involvement with many groups. She has served as a lector at St. Thomas More Parish for 27 years. She has served on the board of Mary Abbott Children's House, on the board of advocates at the University of Oklahoma K20 Center, and on the advisory board for the Assistance League of Norman.

Her efforts in the community and her career earned her the United Way of Norman's INSPIRE award in 2018

and the Norman Chamber of Commerce's Women's Leadership Award in 2017.

"Autumn not only has an incredible resume of volunteer activities, but she has truly made a difference in all these organizations with her hard work and commitment to high values and integrity," Grace said.

McMahon and her husband, Korey, have two children: Rose Olivia, age 6, and Brink Ayden, 1.



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Congratulations, Lisa!

What an honor and well deserved! You have made such a positive impact on the people around you—both at Mabrey and in our community.

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Mark McMullen

CFO and Controller

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Mark McMullen

Chief Financial Officer

Tulsa Community College

Mark McMullen is the chief financial officer of Tulsa Community College. He has been with TCC since 2010, and has held roles as controller and director of finance prior to assuming his current position.

“Mark is a prime example of a motivated, committed, high achiever in our state,” said TCC President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson. “He serves as an essential member of the TCC executive team and provides financial leadership to the college, including managing an annual budget exceeding \$140 million. During his time at TCC, he has pursued new ideas and brought innovation to the college, such as implementing new technology and automation to the

purchasing department, and employing high-standard financial reporting processes collegewide.”

McMullen, who obtained his bachelor’s degree in accounting at Northeastern State University, later earned a master’s degree in accounting and financial analysis from the university. He became a certified public accountant in 2010.

Prior to joining TCC, McMullen was with Hilti Inc. for a year as a senior accountant and was a senior audit associate with Grant Thornton LLP for three years.

“Mark worked closely with both the facilities and IT departments to help fund and manage major capital projects, including the renovation of two main campus buildings and the refreshing of collegewide IT hardware and software,” said Paul H. Cornell, managing partner of Premier Solution Partners and member of TCC’s Board of Regents. “He implemented higher standards of financial reporting for both audited financial



statements and state required reports, and the internal controls policy and procedures documentation project for the college. Recently, he has made improvements to the college’s budgeting process, and led a major effort to annualize compensation, adjusting employee salaries closer to market rates.”

Born in Detroit in 1981, McMullen has called Broken Arrow home since 1986. He

has been a board member for the Ronald McDonald House Charities-Tulsa since 2016. He also has volunteered with the hospitality team for Church on the Move in Tulsa since 2014 and supports the Tulsa Area United Way and the TCC Foundation.

McMullen and his wife, Erica, have three children: Brayden, 10; Ashlyn, 8; and Colin, 5.



Nikki Nice

Ward 7 City Councilwoman

City of Oklahoma City

In her role as Oklahoma City councilwoman for Ward 7 since 2018, Nikki Nice continues to work making a difference in northeast Oklahoma City's access to groceries.

When the area's major grocery store closed, she worked with the city's transit service Embark and local churches to provide transportation to food stores nearby. She has also formed the OKC Health Task Force and is helping to guide the development of a new employee-owned store at NE 36th Street and Lincoln Boulevard.

Catherine O'Connor, president of the Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City, said Nice is truly making a difference in Oklahoma City.

"Councilwoman Nice works tirelessly to represent her constituents and to bring a better quality of life to the community she represents," O'Connor said.

Since her council election,

Nice said she has pushed for MAPS 4 efforts to benefit northeast Oklahoma City and Green Pastures and continues to advocate for the residents she represents within Ward 7. She serves on the Oklahoma City Zoo Trust, MAPS 3 Trails Subcommittee, Judiciary committee, Human Rights task force, Law Enforcement task force, Riversport Foundation Board and HeartLine executive board.

O'Connor also said Nice is dedicated to preserving and recognizing the role of African Americans in the city's history and recently helped save two historic and significant homes – the Brockway Center, which was the former headquarters of the Oklahoma City chapter of the National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and the Lyons Mansion, which was the home and business of prominent Black entrepreneur S.D. Lyons.

Her honors include receiving the Shero of the Year



Award from the Oklahoma Women's Coalition, Lecia D. Swain Ross Award from the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, and Citizen of the Year Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., among others.

Nice earned her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Langston University. Prior to serving on the Oklahoma City Council, she worked as a co-host for *Living Oklahoma* at Fox 25 and as an on-air radio personality at a

local broadcasting company.

Nice said her mother instilled in her a will to persevere and she doesn't give up, even when people have told her she should wait – wait to pursue an internship in radio as a freshman or to run for office as a councilwoman.

"I did not let those words keep me from where I needed to go," Nice said. "Not giving up has guided me through this life journey to serve and give back to the community that raised me."

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Travis Noland

Manager of Government Relations

Cherokee Nations

When Travis Noland was a city councilor for Pryor Creek, the city faced a major budget shortfall due to declining revenue. He had run for city councilor as a professional with a young family because he recognized the need to make the community attractive for couples with small children. But the budget shortfall was hurting that effort and affecting the city's personnel, services and infrastructure. Its municipal pool was about to close due to disrepair and lack of funding. There also wasn't a budget for the popular July 4 community celebration.

Noland led the effort to work with community members, businesses and Cherokee Nation tribal leaders to save the celebration and the pool, said K. Ellis Ritchie, Pryor Creek's city attorney. Ritchie added that Noland helped form

Pryor Main Street and was instrumental in developing a comprehensive plan for the city's long-term growth and development.

"Mr. Noland has proven himself as a highly dedicated, driven and effective leader in his work to facilitate relations and collaboration among the Cherokee Nation and municipal, state and federal government," Ritchie said.

Noland, a graduate of Oklahoma State University, has spent nearly 14 years at both Cherokee Nation Businesses and the Cherokee Nation building a strong media image of the tribe and its businesses. Through his efforts and management of the communications team, Cherokee Nation and CNB have been recognized nationally by PR Daily, Public Relations Society of America and Ragan Communications for social media efforts, the quarterly Anadisgoi magazine, an online newsroom



and the quarterly publication *Where the Casino Money Goes*.

Noland finds it rewarding to represent his tribe and to advocate for the nation by collaborating with federal, state and local governments. The tribe invests in building roads, improving utility infrastructure, funding education and bringing access to quality health care, he said.

"The tribe's investment isn't just for its citizens, it improves the lives of everyone living in the region," Noland

said. "To have the opportunity to play a small part in those efforts is a significant accomplishment and honor."

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said Noland's work has helped advance collaboration between the tribe and other governments across the state, federal and local levels. He also pointed out that Noland's work supports and uplifts Cherokee Nation citizens.

He and his wife, Jenna, have two children – Jacob, 9, and Griffin, 3.

Matthew Peacock

Owner/Principal Architect

Peacock Designs

As an architect, Matthew Peacock wants to work on projects that develop healthy communities. He is passionate about advancing sustainability, urbanism, historic preservation and the arts along with walkability and smart growth in his designs.

“When all of these elements are aligned, it can create a sense of place and build a platform for communal wealth,” said Peacock, owner and principal architect of Peacock Design. “This is a stage in which authentic experiences play out, and where people get out of their cars and onto the streets where great cities live. I continue to leverage these ideas through civic and political engagement, in order to impact policy on a broader level.”

Peacock has focused many of his efforts on reclaiming forgotten spaces and bringing life back to them, such as Factory Obscura’s Mix-

Tape on NW Ninth Street in Oklahoma City and OKC Community Church on NW 23rd Street.

“These projects gave me the opportunity to restore life to discarded buildings and help activate long-dormant commercial corridors,” Peacock said. “When we renew our history instead of tearing it down, it only strengthens our community identity.”

Peacock earned his bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Oklahoma in 2006.

He also is the Ward 8 councilmember for the city of Norman and has served as a Norman planning commissioner since last year.

Peacock is committed to making the community the best version of itself, said Cody Pepper, the urban conservation strategy lead for The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma.

“Matt has always shown leadership and applied an innovative approach to find-



ing and solving gaps around the community,” Pepper said. “Matt’s reputation is always stellar. He is reliable, innovative, and excited to deliver a quality project.”

In recent years, Peacock also has served on the boards of the Norman Rotary Club, Norman Arts Council, Norman Rotary Club, Firehouse Art Center, Citizens Advisory board and Friends of the Norman Library, as well as the education council for the United Way of Norman. He has been involved with Love-works Leadership, Engage

Learning, Habitat Humanity and Mission of Hope Haiti.

He was a member of Leadership Norman in 2019, the Norman Police Department’s Citizen’s Academy, and the Nature Conservancy’s Leadership Academy and has received other honors such as being named to the 2020 class for Leadership Oklahoma City as well as Leadership Oklahoma.

Peacock and his wife, Megan, have three children – Charlie, 6; Graham, 4; and Whitley, 1.

Melissa Phillips

Director of Sales

AT&T

Melissa Phillips is passionate about coaching and developing the employees who work with and for her at AT&T and beyond.

As AT&T's director of sales, working in Oklahoma City, she has seen the benefits of encouraging others: It increases employee productivity, provides a great experience for customers and empowers employees to make a difference at work and in their community, she said.

"My passion is within creating sustainable and positive cultures. To be able to accurately access what's broken in a culture and provide specific actions needed to fix it, gives me the most reward," said Phillips, whose team voted to give her the Coaching Award as one of the most effective leaders within the organization. "I feel strongly that my

calling is to empower and inspire others. Leadership goes outside of my day-to-day job duties. It's about leading by example and truly living out servant leadership in every regard."

Phillips' effort to coach and help people extends to organizations like the Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma. Qiong Wang, an associate professor of marketing and supply chain management, said Phillips is a regular visitor to her classes, a host for career days and meetings with students, and an organizer of field trips for students to AT&T headquarters in Oklahoma City.

"I have found Mrs. Phillips to be an aspiring and sincere leader," Wang said. "With her selfless commitment, our students have been able to get the firsthand experience in the field of marketing and sales."

Phillips earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications in 2008 from Southeast Missouri State University. Before her current position at AT&T, she was an area retail sales manager and a retail store manager for AT&T.

She has been a mentor for the



Oklahoma chapter of Women of AT&T and the Missouri chapter of Aspire, lead coordinator for Oklahoma's Special Olympics and Junior Achievement in Oklahoma as well as a Reading Buddies volunteer for Believe OKC. She's also active at Crossings Community Church.

"Melissa is the rare leader who knows how to motivate her team by positively inspiring action and participating in her team's projects and successes," said Emily Lang with Price Lang Consulting,

adding that Phillips is the highest-ranking female in Oklahoma for AT&T. "She is driven professionally, and she balances her professional success with personal achievements as a wife, mother, daughter and friend to all who are lucky to know her. Melissa is precisely the type of female business leader other women can aspire to be."

Phillips and her husband, John, have an 8-year-old daughter.



Jonas Rabel

President

*Integrus Grove Hospital
Integrus Miami Hospital*

Jonas Rabel's career in health care began in nursing at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Missouri, where he held various positions after earning his associate degree in nursing from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in 2004.

Rabel joined Integrus Grove Hospital in 2010 and spent seven years there in various leadership positions. During this time, he also obtained his bachelor's degree in nursing and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma Wesleyan University.

In 2017, the Miami native was named president of Integrus Miami Hospital. He added the role of president at Integrus Grove Hospital in 2019.

"Jonas sought me out for mentoring on regular occasions, and I can honestly

say that I likely took more away from our meetings than I was able to offer," said Tim Johnsen, former division president at Integrus Health and current senior vice president of hospital operations at Presbyterian Healthcare Services. "He is a unique health care executive in that he came up through the ranks and is now leading two regional hospitals serving two communities in northeast Oklahoma. If there is ever a moment to show kindness towards others, Jonas is first to do so. It is always heartfelt and comes from a desire to be a servant leader to his team."

Avilla T. Williams, division president of Integrus Health Edmond, has worked with Rabel for more than a decade.

"I have marveled at his professionalism and genuinely caring spirit," Williams said. "Jonas is a dedicated and compassionate leader that is well-liked by the medical staff and hospital caregivers. He demonstrates great devotion to improving the health and well-being of the Miami and Grove communities which he serves."



In addition, Rabel is the Northeast Region Chair and board member for the Oklahoma Hospital Association. He also serves on the boards of the Community Crisis Center and Ottawa County United Way and volunteers with Bright Futures as a lunch buddy and committee member. Since 2014, Rabel has been a board member and worship leader at Commerce Community Church.

Chris M. Hammes, executive vice president and chief

operating officer at Integrus, said, "Jonas is a hard worker, highly ethical and very personable, and, because of these attributes, he is highly respected and well-liked by the medical staff as well as the hospital caregivers."

Rabel and his wife, Erin, have three children: Elijah, 13; Addilyn, 11; and Olivia, 7.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, working out, hunting, fishing and being outdoors.

Brent Rempe

Chief Strategy Officer

Allegiance Credit Union

Allegiance Credit Union President and CEO Amy Downs described Brent Rempe as an excellent communicator and strategist, a servant leader who puts others first.

Rempe joined Allegiance last year as chief strategy officer.

“He is always looking for ways to serve and opportunities for shared value,” Downs said. “When Brent joined our executive team, it was as if all the ships in the harbor rose. His level of enthusiasm and positive attitude was contagious. His ability to think strategically has resulted in community partnerships which have created value for both organizations. In a very short time, Brent has made a huge positive impact on our credit union.”

Prior to his current position, Rempe worked a year as a client strategist with CUNA Mutual Group and four years with Weokie Federal Credit Union as director of educa-

tion and then associate vice president of credit union development. Before segueing into finance, Rempe worked for 10 years in several schools as a leader and educator.

Rempe’s honors include receiving the Credit Union Rock Star award from the Credit Union National Association and the Cooperative Spirit Award from the National Credit Union Foundation in 2018. In 2016, he earned the Desjardin Youth Financial Education Award from the Cornerstone Credit Union League, and the ELLy WOW Award from the Credit Union National Association. He was the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education’s 2014 Educator of the Year.

Rempe serves on the National Credit Union Foundation Development Educator Advisory Committee, is an advisory trustee for Cornerstone Credit Union Foundation and has served in various board positions for the Oklahoma Council on



Economic Education. He also is a member of the Economic Education Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City-Oklahoma City Branch.

In 2017, Rempe started a service program at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School in partnership with Don Bosco Special School in Kenya, which has resulted in significant building additions and improvements at Don Bosco as well as a cultural immersion and service learning experience for Mount St.

Mary students and teachers.

“When I met Mr. Rempe for the first time five years ago, it was quite apparent he would quickly make an impact on our school community,” said Talita DeNegri, principal of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. “Brent has brought to our school community the awareness that service learning is global.”

Rempe and his wife, Beth, are parents of a 1-year-old son, Tobias Mategwa Rempe.



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Congratulations JONAS RABEL

Your dedication to your faith, family, career and community is inspiring. Your drive to seek excellence in everything you do is motivating.

We are proud of your commitment to live a life of service to others. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

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Principal, Sidwell Strategies / Founder, Enid Brewing Co.



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Diana Reynolds

Portfolio and Operations Manager

Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores

Diana Reynolds first came to the United States as an international student from Colombia intending to learn English and return home.

When an opportunity for her to work and pay for college in the United States developed, she stayed, working two jobs to support herself and pay international student tuition. Eventually, she landed an internship in the freight factoring industry and developed the skills to bring to Love's as it was starting a new financial services company, she said.

"Even though times were sometimes difficult, I did not give up on achieving the goals I had set for myself, earning both my bachelor's and master's degrees and becoming an American citizen," Reynolds said. "This is what I consider to be my greatest personal accomplishment."

Reynolds, currently Love's

portfolio and operations manager, joined the company in 2014 and moved to Oklahoma City to help start the financial services business. At the time, she held many different roles in the small department. Over the last five years, as she has helped create and streamline its processes, the department has grown to the point where she manages 75 employees over two teams who oversee a \$100 million portfolio.

"Diana is well-respected by her peers and demonstrates leadership traits that reach beyond her job and Love's," said Shane Wharton, Love's president. "She is a charter member of the Love's diversity and inclusion committee, a United Way Emerging Leader and a member of the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She was recently accepted into the current class of Latino Leadership OKC. ... Diana is an exemplary leader and



contributor to the company and community at large."

Reynolds has a bachelor's degree in international business and a Master of Business Administration degree from Arkansas State University.

Reynolds also has served a number of nonprofit organizations as a volunteer, including the Bella SPCA, an Oklahoma City organization that helps care for the animals whose owners are terminally ill or can't afford veterinary care.

"Diana is willing to do

anything to help someone and often reaches out to ask if there is something Bella can do to help someone in need," said Jolie Rae Young, operations manager for the Bella SPCA. "Her heart is so kind, and she wants the best for every person and every pet she meets. She will do whatever we ask of her with a smile on her face every time."

She is married to Jacob Reynolds and the couple has three dogs – Nina, Sofi and Luca.



CONGRATULATIONS

DIANA REYNOLDS

— AND TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S —

2020 ACHIEVERS UNDER 40



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Melanie Wilson Rughani

Director

Crowe & Dunlevy PC

Because of Melanie Wilson Rughani's arguments before the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and the hard work of countless others, Oklahomans recently had the opportunity to determine whether to expand Medicaid in the state, the attorney said.

Rughani succeeded in that case in a rare opportunity to argue before the full state Supreme Court. And those arguments were just part of her legal practice centering around initiative petitions and referenda.

"At a time when the state Legislature has had some difficulty getting things done, we have been able to help Oklahoma citizens pursue transformative measures, like Medicaid expansion, criminal justice, education funding, redistricting reform and other proposals, through channels of direct democracy," Rughani said. "Working with impassioned community members attempting to make the state a better place

through the initiative process is a challenging but incredibly rewarding way to put my legal skills to good use."

Rughani has been a director with Crowe & Dunlevy since 2016, serving as Appellate and Initiative Petitions Practice Group chair. She joined the Oklahoma City firm as an associate in 2010. Prior to that, she was with Mayer Brown LLP in Washington, D.C., as an associate with the U.S. Supreme Court and Appellate Practice Group, and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Kenneth F. Ripple, on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

A native of Edmond, Rughani earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

"She has established herself as a premier attorney in statewide matters including initiative petition actions before the Oklahoma Supreme Court," said Crowe & Dunlevy attorney Clyde A.



Muchmore.

She also serves as a board member for Parent Promise, a local organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect, and has been involved in the Oklahoma Bar Association's appellate section and legislative monitoring committee. She was a member of the 2016 class of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's OKC Connect Program and was included as a Super Lawyers' Rising Star from 2014 to 2018, among other honors.

"She has been a blessing to our organization, not

only because she is passionate about our mission of preventing child abuse and neglect, but also because she is a board member who truly understands what her role is," said Sherry J. Fair, executive director of Parent Promise. "When our state funding was threatened, she stepped up and helped raise money that greatly contributed to our agency remaining open and continuing to serve children and families."

She and her husband, Ankur, have two young children – Jonah and Clara.



Becky Samples

Vice President of Insurance
Marketing & Communications

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance

Several years ago, when she moved to Enid for her first “real” job in her profession, Becky Samples got hooked on running. The lessons she has learned from the exercise have been good for her health and her work.

“Sometimes a run I go on turns out to be an unusually tough run,” Samples said. “Maybe it’s windy; maybe I chose a route with a lot of hills or maybe I’m just tired. Some of those things I can control and some not. There are always good runs, and there can be tough ones but the important thing is to finish what you started.”

Currently in training to run a half-marathon later this year, Samples said running has proven to be a great way for her to clear her head and think through personal

and professional issues.

Samples is the vice president of insurance marketing and communications for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance. Prior to that, the Auburn University graduate was communications and brand development manager for Groendyke Transport, public relations director for the city of Enid and public relations and digital facilitator for Pearson Publishing.

David Nimmo, president and CEO of Chickasaw Nation Industries, called Samples the “full package – leadership, charisma and commitment.”

“I admire her ability, at such a young age, to challenge long-tenured salesmen to successfully adopt new approaches to marketing,” Nimmo said, noting her leadership roles in numerous community organizations in



addition to her role at Farm Bureau. “Becky moves to the top of each organization she supports, from Leadership Oklahoma to the Sam Noble Natural History Museum. Not because she strives to be in charge, rather because the organizations see in her the value she brings.”

In 2011, Samples was a member of the Enid First Committee, which was tasked with developing a new logo and brand for the city of Enid. The committee

launched the new brand in 2012 with its tagline “Boundless. Vibrant. Original.” Samples said she has kept a framed print of it in her office to remind her of the importance of collaboration and community, and today she has seen the success of that new identity play out in economic development, the hosting of large events and in community pride.

Samples and her husband, Charlie, have two children – Carson, 18; and Jace, 14.

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James Sanchez

Director of Hispanic Banking Division

Regent Bank

A native Texan, James Sanchez now calls the Tulsa metro home.

Sanchez has served in his current role as director of Hispanic Banking and business banking specialist for Regent Bank since 2016. Prior to that, he was a financial adviser with Morgan Stanley for four years.

"James is amazing at his job," said Sean Kouplen Oklahoma secretary of commerce and workforce development and Regent Bank chairman and CEO. "He started the division from scratch and has grown it by tens of millions of dollars in a very short time. His strong relationships and sincere caring for his clients have led to this remarkable growth."

Sanchez is a tireless advocate for the Hispanic and

Latino business community.

"I would be hard-pressed to find an individual who I admire more, and who has made more of an impact, than James Sanchez," Kouplen said. "He is selfless, hardworking, kind and is changing our community."

Sanchez said Kouplen has made a significant impact on his career.

"(Kouplen) has helped me grow not only as a business professional but as well as making me a better husband and father," Sanchez said.

Sanchez's efforts led to him being named The Impacto Award Young Business Professional of the Year in 2016. Last year, he was named to *Oklahoma Magazine's* 40 Under 40.

His community involvement includes serving as chairman of the board for the Tulsa Latin American



Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs of Oklahoma. He also has been a mentor, business, banking and financial expert for Tulsa Score. In addition, Sanchez serves on the boards of the Governor's Minority Business Council, Governor's Hispanic Initiative Council and Tulsa Economic Development Corp. He also has served as a board member for the Community Service Council of Tulsa and the Tulsa Housing Authority Board.

"James reflects what Oklahoma needs as an up-and-coming, under-40, mover and shaker in this state," said Nolberto Delgadillo, chief financial officer of Tulsa Public Schools. "His leadership traits manifest themselves in how James connects with the community. I have maintained great respect for his ability to engage, connect and motivate others to action."

Sanchez studied at Oklahoma State University, the University of Texas at Austin and Tulsa Community College.

Trista Shomo

Senior Safety Manager

Manhattan Construction Co.

Trista Shomo is Manhattan Construction's senior safety manager, a position she has held since 2016 when she joined the company and began overseeing the safety of the Oklahoma state Capitol project.

Shomo is passionate about safety at the construction site, said Trait Thompson, Oklahoma state Capitol project manager with the Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

"She knows each of the workers by name, which is not an easy thing to do on a large job site," Thompson said. "She understands the importance of her work because she knows it can be the difference between someone going home to their loved ones at the end of the day or not. Trista continually sets an example for everyone on the state Capitol restoration project."

Shomo's passion for safety, concern for others and big heart are contagious, said

Justin Talbert, risk and safety manager at Manhattan Construction Co.

"Rather than approach people with a 'safety cop' mentality, Trista uses more of a training and coaching approach, which has more of an impact with people," Talbert said.

Shomo has a bachelor's degree in occupational safety and health from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She also has a designation as a Construction Health and Safety Technician from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

Talbert added that Shomo is the voice for the Oklahoma division for Manhattan's companywide safety committee and has helped guide the company in its improvements for safety policies and training.

"Trista is always at the forefront in leading new, innovative methods to improve Manhattan Construction's safety program," Talbert said.

Thompson and Talbert



both praised Shomo for her commitment to her work, her 9-year-old daughter and the community.

"Trista is an incredible leader, top-notch in her profession, and a wonderful mother," Thompson said.

Shomo has been a volunteer for the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, safety judge for Engineering News-Record's Texas and Louisiana's Best Projects, a volunteer for Junior Achievement and a job-site facilitator for Toys for Tots. She also

is Women in Construction mentor for the University of Oklahoma construction science program.

"I hope I shine a light on women working in the construction industry, especially in the safety role and building a safety culture that is nurturing, compassionate and built on trust in an industry that has a reputation for being rough and tough," Shomo said.

She was the 2018 recipient of Manhattan's ABC Safety Pinnacle Award.



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Brady J. Sidwell

Founder and Owner

Enid Brewing Co.

Brady Sidwell grew up on a farm outside of Enid, traveled the world for a corporate job, and then brought his business experience back to his hometown. Since his return to rural to the state, Sidwell has been determined to help revive rural Oklahoma and encourage others to innovate locally, create jobs and invest in the area.

In 2018, he started Oklahoma's first grain-to-glass craft brewery, Enid Brewing Co., which uses locally sourced grain for all its beers. In addition, Sidwell is a founding member and owner of several other companies, including Sidwell Strategies, 81 Feed and Seed, Enterprise Grain Co., Enterprise Grain Malt, Arbitrage Alpha Solutions, Sidwell Transport, and Ag Ventures Capital, among others. He is also a founding partner and vice president of Strategic Partnerships of Ninja Ag LLC.

Before returning to Oklahoma, Sidwell worked for

OSI Group in Chicago and in the Asia Pacific. He also worked in Hong Kong for Rabobank International and in Thailand and South Korea for the U.S. Embassy.

Sidwell has a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University, a Mandarin certificate from Peking University, and a master's degree in economics from the University of Hong Kong.

Brent Kisling, executive director of the Oklahoma Commerce Department, noted Sidwell's corporate experience and travel worldwide.

"A few years ago, we were able to attract him back to his hometown, and we have begun the process of extracting as much knowledge and experience as we can from him," Kisling said. "He is a great corporate citizen and is doing his best to single-handedly grow our state's economy."

From making contributions to fundraising events and donating a percentage of sales from his brewery's Owen K. IPA to sponsoring



local kids who raise show animals, Sidwell gives back to the community in numerous ways.

He serves on numerous boards including the Oklahoma City Branch of the Kansas City Federal Reserve, OSU Board of Governors, and Cherokee Strip Community Foundation's advisory board and is a limited partner and advisory board member of Germin8 Ventures of Chicago. He also has been active in the Enid Rotary Club and Enid AMBUCS.

His honors include this

year being named the top agriculturist under 40 by the Sirloin Club of Oklahoma and receiving the National Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity's Grand President's Award. He is also a recipient of the Enid Young Professionals' Top 10 under 40 award and was named to Leadership Oklahoma's Class 31 and to Class 20 of the Oklahoma Ag Leadership Program.

He is married to Emily Sidwell and the couple is expecting their first child in December.

Clay Taylor

Partner

Oklahoma Lobby Group

Years ago, Clay Taylor learned that a small dog day care business couldn't open because of a law that was intended to do something else. The Oklahoma law's purpose was to prohibit a pit bull breeder from opening near a school, but it was keeping the other pet business from opening anywhere in downtown Oklahoma City.

As a lobbyist, Taylor was able to help fix the law, and now the dog day care's business is booming.

"That story is a great example of how blind spots prohibit economic and commercial freedom and how important it is for businesses and individuals to have a resource who is able to address these issues," Taylor said. "So often in dealing with government, people don't know

where to start. ... I find great joy in helping these individuals or businesses overcome these obstacles."

Today, Taylor is a partner with the Oklahoma Lobby Group and a principal with the Taylor Capitol Group. He has worked with the Taylor Group as a lobbyist and as campaign manager for Boren for Congress.

"In addition to his outstanding leadership skills, Clay is a great person," said Oklahoma City attorney Michael C. Turpen. "He has strong roots in Oklahoma City and is committed to making this city the best place it can be. He has told me that he has grown up watching our city's leaders and wants to take the baton from those who came before him to continue the great work being done in our community."

Taylor has a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and in 2014 earned his law degree from Oklahoma City University.

He serves on the boards of Infant Crisis Services and Men's Dinner Club. He also has been on the Concord 51



board and a member of the pastor-parish relations committee and the administrative council for St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Miki Farris, executive director of Infant Crisis Services, called Taylor "one of the good ones" for his commitment to the community.

"He exemplifies the next generation of innovative, creative, and inspiring individuals who push the boundaries beyond their years in all ar-

eas," Farris said. "Clay Taylor is making Oklahoma a better place to live."

Taylor said he has loved working with the diverse group of people he meets as a lobbyist, whether they're from industry or in the non-profit or government sectors, and he believes in handling each of them with honesty and integrity.

He and his wife, Becky, have two children, ages 3 and 1.



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Vincent Venincasa

Ophthalmologist

Edmond Regional Eye Associates

Before he got involved with the Good Shepherd Clinics, Vincent Venincasa knew they had a robust internal medicine and dental clinic for patients for uninsured people who can't pay for health care.

The ophthalmologist also knew they had nowhere to send patients for eye screenings, so he reached out to them to see about establishing an eye clinic. He then joined the nonprofit's board, raised more than \$20,000 and performed the first eye exams at Good Shepherd Clinics in 2019. He hopes to recruit more community ophthalmologists as volunteers.

The rates of the uninsured in Oklahoma "are staggering" – 23% in Oklahoma County alone, costing the state's health care system millions of dollars, said Pam Timmons, Good Shepherd's executive director.

"But what is also staggering is how the efforts of one person, one particular person, can truly make a difference

in addressing this problem," Timmons said, referring to Venincasa and the impact he has had in providing health care for the uninsured. "His passion is real and has been a difference-maker in the improvement and growth of the clinic."

Venincasa, an associate ophthalmologist for the Edmond Regional Eye Associates, is volunteer director of Good Shepherd's ophthalmology clinic. The University of Miami graduate did his internal medicine internship at the University of Oklahoma and his ophthalmology residency at OU's Dean McGee Eye Institute. Venincasa is working toward a Master of Business Administration degree from Oklahoma State University. He also is leading the effort to establish the Holy Family Guild, a chapter of the Catholic Medical Association in Oklahoma City.

In addition, Venincasa is starting a senior eye lecture series that combines art and ophthalmology in Edmond.

"Dr. Venincasa has found an excellent way to balance



so many activities – starting private practice, running a free clinic in downtown Oklahoma City and getting involved in the local and state community," said M. Andrew Hogue, owner and ophthalmologist at the Edmond Regional Eye Associates.

Venincasa serves on the board for the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology. During residency, he served as the chief resident at the Dean McGee Eye Institute and was a member of the institute's program evaluation committee, accreditation

committee for the American College of Graduate Medical Education, operations committee for the McGee Eye Surgery Center and the complication reduction committee for the OU Health Sciences Center.

Venincasa was inducted into OU's Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and was honored as a NextGen 30 Under 30 Award recipient as a resident.

He and his wife, Kiran (a general surgeon), have a 1-year-old daughter, Soleil.



Cornell Wesley

Founder and CEO

Emblem Strategies LLC

After more than 14 years of financial service industry experience and over five years in public service, Cornell Wesley launched a minority-owned and -operated economic development consulting firm focusing on revitalization and transformation in Oklahoma's rural and urban cores.

Before founding Emblem Strategies LLC, Wesley was an economic development representative for the U.S. Economic Development Administration. He has been involved in projects that have had a \$1.5 billion impact on Oklahoma's economy, with 10,000 jobs created and 5,000 jobs retained.

In 2017, Wesley was awarded a commendation by Gov. Mary Fallin for his work impacting the state's economy. Before his work with the federal government, Wesley was manager of financial services and economic development for the East Arkansas Planning & Development District, and spent several years in the banking and

insurance industries prior to that.

"The status quo is simply not something that (Wesley) is willing to accept, and his tenacity to seek solutions is impressive," said Joshua McClintock, president of McClintock Associates Inc. "You'll never find him backing away and surrendering to defeat. Cornell digs deep and finds the commitment and resolve to tackle the situation head-on. He rolls up his sleeves and doesn't stop working until he has found a way to make the situation better for everyone involved. He's the type of person that every leader aspires to have on their team."

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Wesley earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Morehouse College, where he was honored as a distinguished alumnus of the Atlanta university. He also is a 2018 graduate of economic development studies from the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute.

Wesley's community involvement includes serving



on the board of Northeast Oklahoma City Renaissance and advisory board for Leadership Oklahoma Inc. In addition, he serves as an adviser/mentor for Oklahoma City Thunder Launchpad-StitchCrew and as a mentor to The Employment and Education Ministry, which works to break cycles of incarceration and poverty in Oklahoma by providing education, social services, job training and placement.

Wesley and his wife,

Shaaron, have two children: Kennedy, 8, and Carter, 4.

"I believe the key to my achievements has been the understanding that my successes, however large or small, have been made possible because of parents who loved me, grandparents who were present and intentional in pouring positivity into my life," he said, "and the realization that the opportunity itself is one that was not afforded to my ancestors not long ago."

Jonna Whetsel

President & Founder

Network for Pets of Domestic Violence Victims

As Jonna Whetsel worked on her master's degree in veterinary forensics, she took a course that explored the connection between animal cruelty and violence between people. She learned that many victims won't leave a dangerous domestic violence situation if they can't bring their pets with them, but many shelters can't house pets.

Whetsel became one of the first 140 people in the world to earn such a degree from the University of Florida, and because of her time there, she also created the Network for Pets of Domestic Violence Victims in 2019. The Stillwater-based organization offers a website that connects animal care resources like shelters, fosters, vets, etc., with the domestic violence shelters that need them so survivors can escape with their pets.

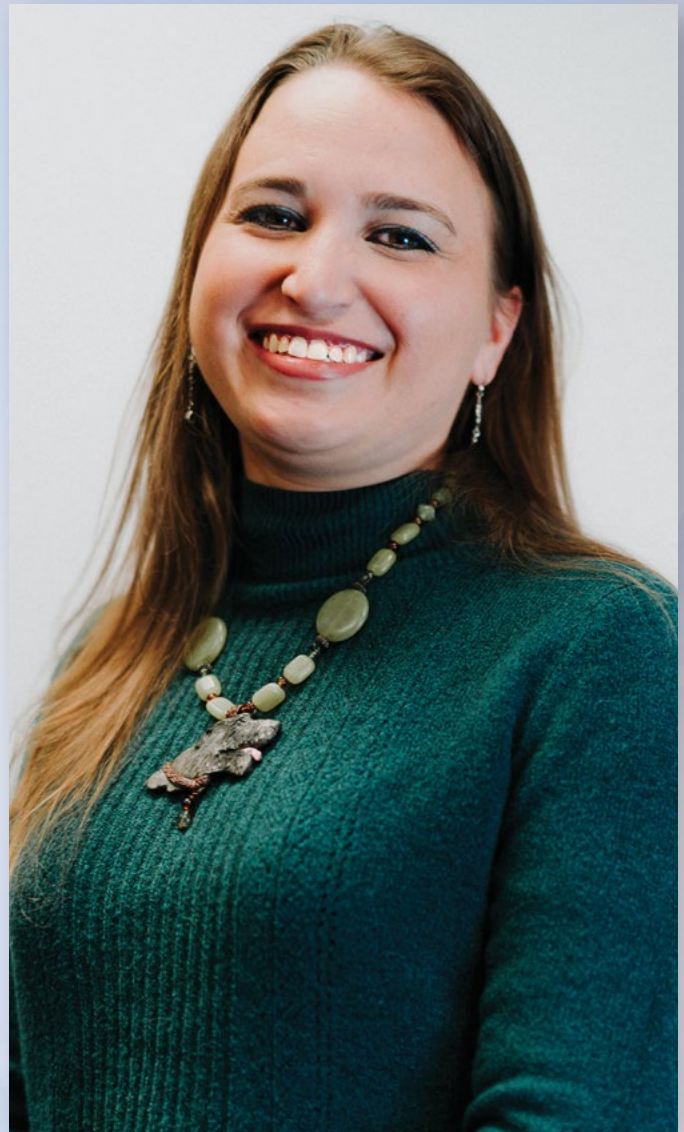
"The database is solving a real problem," Whetsel said.

"By connecting these resources in advance, domestic violence shelters have access to willing volunteers that will be ready to step up and care for pets while survivors make lifesaving changes. Removing this barrier will result in more victims escaping to safety."

Whetsel, who expects to graduate with her doctorate in veterinary medicine from Oklahoma State University in 2022, earned her bachelor's and associate degrees in psychology from California Coast University and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Jennifer M. Rudd, a veterinary faculty member at OSU, said it can be difficult to stand out among peers in the field but that Whetsel will transform the profession and the community.

"It takes a special combination of grit and compassion to be successful in this career," Rudd said. "These qualities are inherent to



who Jonna is and are easily recognized by anyone around her. Jonna has a unique background in forensic science and psychology – not an everyday origin story for a future veterinarian."

Whetsel has worked as an accounting and administrative technician for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and as a research assistant and laboratory assistant at UCO.

In addition to her work with the nonprofit she founded, she is president of the OSU chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians

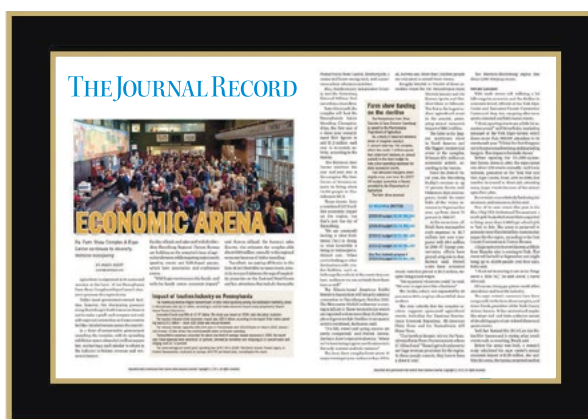
and secretary for the OSU chapter of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists as well as student representative of the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association board.

"I am always compelled to go the extra mile for others – whether it's for humans or animals, strangers or friends," Whetsel said. "It's easy to get caught up in our own hectic lives, but there is nothing that fulfills me more than to brighten the day of others and to encourage them to keep going."



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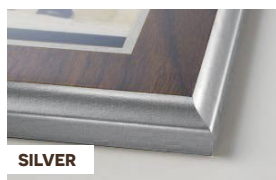
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