

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

Serving as your Chair for 2006 has been a very rewarding experience. I am pleased to report that the Criminal Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association is stronger and more dynamic than ever.

- We are fortunate to have a large cadre of dynamic and active leaders. Accordingly, I extend my personal gratitude to Trent Baggett, Craig Sutter, Larry Stuart, Ben Brown, Jim Drummond, Dennis Smith, Doug Drummond, Brian Hermanson, Wyndi Hobbs, Jaye Mendros, and Shannon Otteson for their tireless efforts in making the Criminal Law Section of the OBA even more successful and dynamic than we first thought possible!
- Our membership surpasses more than 500 members – an all time high!
- We enjoy an extremely healthy financial balance sheet, which has allowed us to increase benefits to our members.
- Our magazine, the *Q&A*, is published six (6) times a year and continually receives praise for containing articles that are on the cutting edge of the practice of criminal law in Oklahoma. The *Q&A* has moved to the next generation of publishing with Doug Drummond as the new Editor. We publish the *Q&A* electronically via the OBA listserv and make it available on the OBA web site for all bar members to enjoy.
- We continue to hold our Annual Meeting and Luncheon during the OBA's Annual Meeting. Last year, more than 100 prosecutors, judges and attorneys attended the luncheon. This year should prove to be equally successful with Honorable Arlene Johnson, Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, scheduled as our keynote speaker.
- Our 1st Annual Forensic Seminar was extremely successful, touting over 100 attendees. The forum provided a solid opportunity for networking and vigorous exchange of ideas in that the 100+ attendees included a good mix of prosecutors, defense attorneys and even judges. Plans are already underway for the 2nd Annual Forensic Seminar scheduled for April 2007.
- We continue to generate healthy bonds, friendships and collegiality among prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges. Our contributions to community and civic affairs included support of the OBA Law Day Program (\$1,000 contribution plus video assistance) and support of the Justice House (\$500 contribution).
- Our user-friendly web site (www.okbar.org/members/sections/criminal) continues to grow. This site is comprehensive with our publication, the *Q&A*, forms, current events and legislative news updates.
- The section continues to take positions on proposed legislation only in the event of a consensus of the three corners of our membership (judges, prosecutors and defenders), otherwise the vision of our mission is primarily educational and discursive.

- Through its committees, educational programs and highly acclaimed publications, the Criminal Law Section is constantly striving to be more vital and more valuable to its members. We believe that as our publications continue to grow and CLE programs continue to improve, membership is guaranteed to increase.
- We appreciate the amazing support system provided by the Oklahoma Bar Association and the gracious cooperation we have received from the bar staff.

This is yet another very positive year for the Criminal Law Section. The commitment of the bar leadership to proper and equitable administration of criminal justice has been gratifying, and I am confident our criminal justice system will continue to improve as we continue to debate and look for consensus in our attempts to improve the system. The Criminal Law Section stands ready to play a major role in the positive evolution of a stronger, more positive system.

I have enjoyed my term as chairperson of the Criminal Law Section and look for even bigger and better things in the years to come. I am pleased to pass the chairmanship to Trent Baggett, whose dedication to creating a cohesive section of prosecutors, defenders and judges has proven to be essential and instrumental for rapid growth of our section. Similarly, his contributions and excellent authorship of the section brochure on Criminal Law has proved to be a vital interface of the Oklahoma Bar Association with the general public. Therefore, I am certain Trent will be an excellent steward in our effort to improve criminal justice and serve the criminal justice community in Oklahoma.

Michael R. Wilds
Chairperson