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Law School Hosts the Honorable Timothy M. Tymkovich, 2014 McAfee & Taft Distinguished Jurist in Residence

(OKLAHOMA CITY – February 24, 2014) – Oklahoma City University School of Law was pleased to host the Honorable Timothy Tymkovich of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit as the 2014 McAfee & Taft Distinguished Jurist in Residence. Judge Tymkovich delivered a public lecture Wednesday night titled “Election Law and Political Structure: From Romer to Schuette and McCutcheon – a Perspective on the Supreme Court.”

As part of his activities on campus, Judge Tymkovich also participated in a panel discussion titled “An Independent Judiciary.” Judge Tymkovich joined panelists President Robert Henry, Oklahoma City University; Justice Steven Taylor, Oklahoma Supreme Court; Larry Ottaway, Judicial Nominating Commission; and David Poarch, Oklahoma Bar Association President-Elect. Oklahoma City University School of Law Dean Valerie K. Couch served as moderator.

“There is perhaps nothing more central to democracy and our system of checks and balances than the role of an independent judiciary. In fact, the Rule of Law and our entire legal system depends on it,” said Dean Couch, a former U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. “It is with sincere gratitude that I thank Judge Tymkovich and the other panelists for participating in our very important discussion. I think it proved enlightening to our students and our guests.”

The Jurist in Residence program is a partnership between Oklahoma City University School of Law and the Oklahoma City firm of McAfee & Taft that brings respected members of the bench to campus for a unique educational opportunity. During Judge Tymkovich’s tenure as the 2014 Jurist in Residence, he not only gave a lecture and participated in the Judicial Independence panel, but he also met with the Oklahoma City University Law Review, visited two criminal law classes, spent time with local attorneys and judges, and was available for an open ‘meet and greet’ for students and faculty.

“It was our distinct honor to host Judge Tymkovich at our law school as part of the Jurist in Residence program. It is through our partnership with McAfee & Taft that the School of Law is able to give our students unparalleled access to distinguished jurists, such as Judge Tymkovich. This is a unique opportunity for them to gain valuable insight and perspective on the practice of law. We express our deepest appreciation to McAfee & Taft for facilitating such a wonderful relationship.”

BACKGROUND
Judge Tymkovich is a native third-generation Coloradan. He is a 1979 graduate of The Colorado College, and a 1982 graduate of the University of Colorado School of Law. After graduation, he clerked for Chief Justice William Erickson of the Colorado Supreme Court.

After his clerkship, he worked for the Denver law firm, David Graham & Stubbs, in its Denver and Washington DC offices.
In 1991, he joined Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton as the State’s Solicitor General. In that position, he directed legal policy for the State of Colorado and was responsible for legislative matters before the Colorado General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. He also represented the State of Colorado in two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He returned to private practice in 1996, helping to form Hale Hackstaff Tymkovich, where he practiced in the areas of business litigation and appeals, election law, and legislative and regulatory matters.

Judge Tymkovich was nominated to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals by President George W. Bush. Congress confirmed Tymkovich in April 2003. His Chambers are located in Denver, Colorado.

Judge Tymkovich serves the federal Judiciary as Chair of its Committee on Judicial Resources. The Committee is responsible for judicial vacancies and overall budget. He also is an adjunct professor of law at the University of Colorado School of law, where he teaches Election Law. He is President of the Doyle Inn of court, and a member of the American Law Institute and the International Society of Barristers.

Since he joined the Circuit, Judge Tymkovich has hosted judicial delegations from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan, and has also represented the United States in programs at Kiev and Yalta in the Ukraine.

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Oklahoma City University School of Law is fully approved by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. It serves a diverse student body of approximately 600. Oklahoma City University School of Law’s nearly 6,000 alumni practice in every state and several foreign countries. For more information, visit law.okcu.edu.