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OCU Law Ranks in First Quartile for 2013 Employment Stats

(OKLAHOMA CITY – May 16, 2014) – Oklahoma City University School of Law graduates are employed at rates comparable to Ivy League schools according to a recent report by Moody’s Investors Services. The report issued this month ranks all U.S. law schools based solely on their most recent graduating class’ employment in JD required or JD preferred positions. OCU Law ranked in the first quartile with an 85.8% employment rate for its 2013 class.

"Employment for our graduates is a top priority for this law school especially in this economy," said Dean Valerie K. Couch. "Those who want to practice law are receiving the skills and experience they need to be practice-ready upon graduation. I think this report reflects our emphasis on skills integration, which is making our law students marketable and employable."

Not only did Oklahoma City University School of Law rank in the first quartile among the likes of Harvard, Yale, Vanderbilt, George Washington, and Cornell, but the law school was also the highest ranked among Oklahoma law schools, as well as several law schools in the region.

“Our new home in downtown Oklahoma City is a prime location for building the leaders of tomorrow by offering our students of today ready access to the experiences that can lead to their employment upon graduation. No one else in the state can offer close proximity to Oklahoma’s seat of state government, the center of our state’s main industries, the heartbeat of our state’s music, arts and sports world, and the central hub of our court system and bar associations,” said Dean Couch.

OCU Law places an emphasis on skills and practical experience from the beginning of law school. Recent curriculum changes include integrating full time faculty and working practitioners in a variety of first year classes so that students learn the pragmatic application of the law from the start of their legal education. These skills integration courses are mixed with traditional doctrinal teaching for an educational experience that uniquely blends theory with real-world experience.

The city’s law school also features distinct clinical opportunities – again providing students with a window into the world of legal practice. Oklahoma City University is home to the state’s only innocence project, where students review case files, conduct witness interviews, collect records and assist with drafting legal documents on behalf of clients fighting wrongful convictions. The law school is also home to the American Indian Wills Clinic which allows students to gain first hand experience drafting wills and other probate documents for Native Americans who own an interest in Indian land in Oklahoma.

Additionally, Oklahoma City University School of Law offers more than 80 externship opportunities. These are placements for law students to work with and learn from practitioners in Government Practice, Judicial, Litigation Practice and Native American Externships. The law school offered three new externship placement sites for students this
spring in Patent Prosecution with the U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center, Oklahoma Ethics Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Among numerous pro bono opportunities, in June the law school is launching the Bankruptcy Project for the Western District of Oklahoma, a collaboration that provides law students with practical experience while offering free services to Oklahomans facing potential legal issues.

Moody’s Investors Service is a provider of credit ratings, research and risk analysis.

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ABOUT OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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 500. 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.