

“OLD STONERS”^{*} NEVER RETIRE

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I first met Charlie Cantrell long ago in the mists of OCU history, 1981, when the law school finally left the “barracks” to establish a new home in the Goldstar Building. Charlie was a criminal defense attorney with a J.D. from Baylor and an LL.M. from the University of Texas. I was an ex-criminal prosecutor from Wyoming. We had much to learn from each other, from geographical backgrounds to different experiences in the practice of criminal law. Charlie had never encountered buffalo burgers or Coors beer, and I confess I did not possess his voracious interest in barbecue recipes. Even after thirty-plus years and two new law school buildings, we still haven’t quite breached the food-culture divide.

We did share an interest in clinical legal education, especially in criminal law. Charlie established OCU’s innovative Criminal Pretrial Litigation course, which provided generations of OCU lawyers with the critical theoretical and practical aspects of pretrial practice: motions, preliminary hearings, grand jury practice, Fourth and Fifth Amendment issues, and much more.

Although Criminal Pretrial Litigation was, in my opinion, Charlie’s signature course, he was also our mainstay professor teaching Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. Charlie was an excellent classroom professor, combining rigor with humor and memorable stories to illustrate important points. He was often recognized by his students as an outstanding teacher, serving as a graduation hoodler in numerous graduations.

Charlie’s extensive writing, especially in the areas of state criminal law practice manuals for multiple states, specifically Oklahoma and

^{*} “Stoners” was a term of art in the 1970s. Originally, the term referenced die-hard fans of the Rolling Stones. Similarly, “Deadheads” were fans of the Grateful Dead. “Stoners” morphed into slang for any avid fan of rock ‘n’ roll. Use of the word *stoner* in any other context would incorrectly describe Charlie.

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Missouri, enhanced the classroom experience for his students and the academic reputation of OCU. Every student loves to be able to cite his or her professor in a brief or memorandum, and Charlie's scholarship has provided—and will continue to provide—many of those moments. I personally found Charlie's annotated jury instructions to be particularly helpful in my own teaching, and it is the go-to Oklahoma source for our state criminal trials.

OCU's Texas law students have long been a source of great pride to our institution and play an integral part in its reputation. Charlie taught Texas Criminal Procedure, a critical course for our Texas students given the many variations in Texas law. Many Texas alumni are grateful to Charlie for his Texas legal expertise, which has made a difference in studies for the Texas Bar Examination and for practical application in Texas courtrooms.

It is said that "Old Stoners" never retire; they just roll on to their next gig. Suffice it to say, Charlie has many gigs. He will continue to supplement his many practice manuals. More important to Charlie, as detailed in Professor MacDougall's article, is his outsized collection of Rolling Stones memorabilia, together with Hollywood autographs galore and a very esoteric assembly (to say the least) of various horror magazine issues going back decades. Ah, the inner workings of the collector's mind! Any psychiatrist would have a heyday (and probably a great deal of fun) trying to sort all of this out! One thing is for sure—life in the Cantrell household will *always* be interesting. When do I get invited to view the Clint Eastwood collection?