

TEAMMATE EXTRAORDINAIRE

Tom J. McDaniel*

Lawrence Hellman served as Dean of OCU Law during my entire tenure as President of Oklahoma City University. Larry and his wife, Gay, were great representatives of the University in the community, the legal profession, and beyond.

OCU Law flourished under his leadership in terms of attracting great faculty, recruiting capable students, and producing financial performance that was critical for the law school and the University.

A prolific writer, his contribution to legal publications enhanced our school's stature with the bar and bench and created a relationship within the profession that benefitted the law school and its students.

As a member of the University's Dean's Council, he provided leadership and support for OCU as a whole and was a trusted advisor during my presidency.

Dean Hellman will be most remembered for two transformational projects he led that enhanced the image of OCU law in the legal profession and beyond.

The first was to gain membership in the Association of American Law Schools. It was the culmination of a multi-year effort to move from the school's meager beginnings decades ago as a downtown night school, to acceptance as a peer among the nation's finest law schools. It was an important and significant undertaking which he guided to successful conclusion.

Secondly, the founding of Oklahoma's first Innocence Project as part of OCU Law signaled a new and important role in the justice system for our school, its faculty, and students. Dean Hellman's determination and engagement of national figures, such as author John Grisham, provided the momentum for success.

Dean Hellman will long be remembered by many for leading OCU

* Former Oklahoma City University President 2001-2010

through an important time in its history. He will be remembered by me as a valued colleague and friend.