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HONORARY MEMBER

DEAN JIM ROTH

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I first met Jim Roth in 2010 through my previous career when a mutual friend insisted he would be willing to help me strategize for a new fundraising effort. This was the first time I witnessed Jim's unfaltering generosity. I reconnected with him again when he became my professor for Energy Regulation at Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2017. Eventually, I became an intern, and later, employee, for his company, and have watched again and again his willingness to meet with whomever makes the request. Nonprofit leaders, elected officials, other attorneys, aspiring political candidates, and now, students. Complete strangers who inevitably become friends. It was the end of my 3L year when OCU Law began its search for its new Dean. Students were nervous about losing Dean Valerie Couch, she had done such a tremendous job, who would come next? When word got out that it could be Jim, people were thrilled. He is a friend to all he meets. He remembers names, faces, and stories. He values diversity in thought which makes him a superior mediator: many times, having brought together people on very divergent sides of issues.

He has served the public throughout his career, having worked as an Oklahoma County staff attorney, County Commissioner, and Corporation Commissioner. His knowledge is so vast, it is not uncommon for him to be speaking on, well, nearly any topic, and watch people grin and shake their heads in amazement at the level of detail he draws upon. Always an innovator, Jim was a pioneer of wind energy regulation in Oklahoma, and he has continued that path paving in other areas of his renewable energy legal practice. In fact, when Mark Zuckerberg wanted to visit the state to tour a wind farm, it was Jim that Facebook's higher-ups contacted to set it up. Jim serves on numerous nonprofit boards throughout the community and is a highly-sought-after speaker on energy, policy, and politics.

Somehow through all of this, all of his accomplishments, awards, and recognition, he is incredibly humble. He will quickly credit his mom for his success, or his dad for teaching him so many valuable lessons. And if all of this weren't enough, he is always quick-witted and fun-loving.

The foundation of what Jim gives to the world is love. His love for others. His love for his family and friends. His love for his many animals—farm and domestic. His love for his equally wonderful husband Phillip. Jim is known for saying “Oklahoma’s solar industry potential is so bright, you gotta wear shades.” OCU Law has entered an exciting phase. With Jim at the helm, its future is grab-your-sunglasses bright.