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## TRIBUTE

### A TRIBUTE TO DR. BLUE CLARK

*Lori Harless & Casey Ross*

Dr. Carter Blue Clark possessed all of the qualities of all of the very best humans on this earth—and he was just one person. One person who was a teacher, a scholar, an author, a husband, a dad, a colleague, a friend, a dedicated Muscogee (Creek) Nation patriot, a servant leader, and a humanitarian.

Dr. Clark began his career by establishing the new field of American Indian Studies at the University of Utah; Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa; and California State University, Long Beach. He also taught at the University of California, Los Angeles and San Diego State University. In 1985, he was a fellow at the McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies in Chicago. Dr. Clark joined Oklahoma City University in 1991 as its Vice President of Academic Affairs, and then moved towards his true passion—teaching as a professor across multiple disciplines on campus. Dr. Clark retired in 2016 as the Oakerhater Chair of American Indian Studies and Professor of History, but continued as an adjunct instructor at the School of Law.

Dr. Clark was a prolific scholar, consuming every topic about which he wrote. As a scholar of American Indian law, Dr. Clark authored numerous articles and wrote or edited eleven books, including *Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock* for which he received the Wordcraft Circle Writer of the Year award from the University of Oklahoma and was presented with the first

Indian Studies Annual Award from the Western History Association. His book *Indian Tribes of Oklahoma: A Guide* is a widely circulated, authoritative source on the state's Native peoples.

Dr. Clark was also brave. In a life of great accomplishment and fulfillment, he also had a sense of responsibility to his community. In the 1970s Dr. Clark wrote on the history of the Ku Klux Klan in Oklahoma, at a time when residents were sensitive about their involvement and reluctant to discuss it. Yet Dr. Clark persisted. Dr. Clark wrote about the military court hearings in the Tulsa area in the 1920s while the city was under martial law following the Tulsa Race Riot.

Even after his retirement from teaching full time, Dr. Clark continued his contributions in the classroom, serving as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Law. He was determined to stay actively involved in the daily life of the students, staff, and faculty. His enthusiasm helped motivate the law school's sense of pride and commitment service in the profession.

In addition to his remarkable record of scholarship and service, Dr. Clark was genuinely a good human being. And to those who knew him well, he was a good friend. Dr. Clark's candor, compassion, and good cheer were just a few characteristics of his teaching, inside and outside of the classroom. His academic expertise strengthened all those with whom he interacted, and he gave his valuable time and talent to further research and understanding among students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Dr. Clark will be missed by our entire law school community. We pledge to move forward in our lives as he taught us and showed us to do. We will continue in our creative and scholarly pursuits. We will hold close our families and friends. And we will continue speaking truth—even when inconvenient—to further understanding and respect for tribal sovereignty.