

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW

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FOREWORD

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On the morning of April 19, 1995, an American and veteran of the U.S. Army parked a truck bomb in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. The bomb resulted in the deaths of 168 people, and it is still the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in American history.

The bomb killed two Oklahoma City University School of Law alumni—Jules A. Valdez and Michael D. Weaver. Valdez (age fifty-one) and Weaver (age forty-five) were both attorneys in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The bomb directly or indirectly affected thousands of OCU Law alumni living in the Oklahoma City area, and many alumni became part of the long-term community reaction, especially as the resulting criminal cases worked their way through the judicial system.

At the time, OCU Law was located on NW 23rd Street, but the building that would later become the law school's home played a key role in the response. The old Central High School at 800 N. Harvey had been converted to the headquarters for Southwestern Bell Corporation's ("SBC") Oklahoma operations. On April 19, 1995, SBC Market President Dave Lopez offered the building as the command center for emergency response; and for the weeks that followed, the building was full of search and rescue teams from around the country.

When OCU Law moved to its current home in 2015, it immediately recognized the solemn obligation of producing lawyers just two blocks away from the site of this deadly assault on our form of government.

Today, OCU Law has the Murrah Fellows program and the Murrah Student Association, both available for students interested in national security and homeland security law. And in 2025, we dedicated a display case in our museum room to recognize Jules A. Valdez, Michael D. Weaver, and our building's history in response to the bombing.

The rule of law survived April 19, 1995, but the crosscurrents that led to the bombing endure. OCU Law will always remember what happened just two blocks from our school, and we will always take our role seriously in educating lawyers who will defend the rule of law.

I commend the staff of the Law Review and the contributors to this Issue for their work on this special edition marking the thirtieth anniversary of the bombing. This Law Review Issue you are holding reflects our commitment to always remember April nineteenth.