

## OKLAHOMA

Much of Oklahoma's unique judicial history involved the administration of the Native American tribes prior to statehood in 1907. It is distinctive also in that it is the only state admitted to the Union with a multi-district organization.<sup>1</sup> The Northern District was added to the existing Eastern and Western Districts in 1925.<sup>2</sup> OK.ED.02 was created as a temporary position in 1922, then transferred (becoming OK.ND.01) and converted by the 1925 reorganization act.

OK.WD.02 was authorized as a temporary line in 1940, and converted to permanent in 1949.<sup>3</sup> OK.WD.07 was created in 1961 to serve all three districts, and assigned permanently to the Western District in 1990.<sup>4</sup> OK.NEWD.01 also was authorized as a transient position to serve all three districts, and remains so. OK.WD.03 was created under the legislation that allowed the president to appoint an additional judge upon certification that a sitting judge eligible for retirement--yet unable fully to discharge judicial duties--refused to leave the bench.<sup>5</sup> So when the judge in question, Ross Rizley (OK.WD.01.03), died in 1969, that line ended and OK.WD.03 effectively became the permanent position.

Originally assigned to the Eighth Circuit, Oklahoma was transferred to the Tenth in 1929,<sup>6</sup> where it remains today. It has eleven judgeships: three in the Northern District, one in the Eastern District, six in the Western District, and a transient judge that serves all three districts.

Statutory History		
<i>Seat</i>	<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Authority</i>
OK.ED.01	Act of June 16, 1906	34 STAT. 267

---

<sup>1</sup>Act of June 16, 1906, 34 STAT. 276.

<sup>2</sup>Act of February 16, 1925, 43 STAT. 945.

<sup>3</sup>Act of August 3, 1949, 63 STAT. 493.

<sup>4</sup>Act of December 1, 1990, 104 STAT. 5089.

<sup>5</sup>Act of February 25, 1919, 40 STAT. 29.

<sup>6</sup>Act of February 28, 1929, 45 STAT. 1346. See also, *History of the Eighth Circuit* (Washington: Judicial Conference of the United States, 1977); William C. Kellough, Oklahoma: The Territorial and District Courts, in the Hon. James K. Logan, ed. *The Federal Courts of the Tenth Circuit: A History* (Denver: U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, 1992): 173-220.

OK.ENWD.01	Act of June 22, 1936	49 STAT. 1804
OK.ND.02	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
OK.ND.03	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089
OK.WD.01	Act of June 16, 1906	34 STAT. 276
OK.WD.02	Act of May 24, 1940	54 STAT. 219
OK.WD.03	Act of February 25, 1919	40 STAT. 29
OK.WD.04	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
OK.WD.05	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
OK.WD.06	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089
OK.WD.07	Act of May 19, 1961 <sup>7</sup>	75 STAT. 80

<b>Seat Histories</b>					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
OK.ED.01.01	Campbell, Ralph E.	January 13, 1908 <sup>8</sup>	September 1, 1918	Resigned	Republican
OK.ED.01.02	Williams, Robert Lee	January 7, 1919	April 21, 1937	Elevated to Tenth Circuit	Democrat
OK.ED.01.03	Rice, Eugene	August 10, 1937	December 1, 1963	Retired	Democrat
OK.ED.01.04	Langley, Edwin	January 26, 1965	September 12, 1973	Deceased	Democrat
OK.ED.01.05	Morris, Joseph W.	April 5, 1974	August 1, 1978	Resigned	Republican

<sup>7</sup>Originally authorized as transient position for all three districts, subsequently assigned permanently to the Western District.

<sup>8</sup>Recess appointment, November 11, 1907.

<b>Seat Histories</b>					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
OK.ED.01.06	Seay, Frank Howell <sup>9</sup>	October 31, 1979	September 25, 2003	Retired	Democrat
OK.ED.01.07	White, Ronald A.	September 30, 2003	Active	Active	Republican
OK.ED.02.01	Kenamer, Franklin Elmore	February 19, 1924	May 31, 1940	Retired	Republican
OK.ND.01.02	Savage, Royce H.	September 27, 1940	October 31, 1961	Resigned	Democrat
OK.ND.01.03	Barrow, Allen E.	August 1, 1962	February 26, 1979	Deceased	Democrat
OK.ND.01.04	Ellison, James Oliver	October 31, 1979	November 7, 1994	Retired	Democrat
OK.ND.01.05	Holmes, Sven E.	October 7, 1994	March 13, 2005	Resigned	Democrat
OK.ND.01.06	Vacant				
OK.ND.02.01	Brett, Thomas Rutherford	October 31, 1979	October 3, 1996	Retired	Democrat
OK.ND.02.02	Eagan, Claire V.	October 23, 2001	Active	Active	Republican
OK.ND.03.01	Kern, Terry Curtis	June 8, 1994	Active	Active	Democrat
OK.NEWD.01.01	Murrah, Alfred Paul	February 25, 1937	September 4, 1940	Elevated to Tenth Circuit	Democrat

---

<sup>9</sup>First Native American judge appointed to the U.S. district bench.

<b>Seat Histories</b>					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
OK.NEWD.01.02	Broaddus, Bower Slack	September 27, 1940	December 10, 1949	Deceased	Democrat
OK.NEWD.01.03	Wallace, William Robert	June 2, 1950	June 24, 1960	Deceased	Democrat
OK.NEWD.01.04	Bohanon, Luther L.	August 30, 1961	August 2, 1974	Retired	Democrat
OK.NEWD.01.05	Cook, Harold Dale	December 18, 1974	December 31, 1991	Retired	Republican
OK.NEWD.01.06	Burrage, Billy Michael	June 8, 1994	March 1, 2001	Resigned	Democrat
OK.NEWD.01.07	Payne, James H.	October 23, 2001	Active	Active	Republican
OK.WD.01.01	Cotteral, John Hazelton	January 13, 1908 <sup>10</sup>	May 23, 1928	Elevated to Tenth Circuit	Republican
OK.WD.01.02	Vaught, Edgar Sullins	January 8, 1929 <sup>11</sup>	April 22, 1956	Retired	Republican
OK.WD.01.03	Rizley, Ross	March 1, 1956	March 4, 1969	Deceased	Republican
OK.WD.02.01	Chandler, Stephen Sanders	May 10, 1943	October 20, 1975	Retired	Democrat
OK.WD.02.02	Thompson, Ralph G.	October 9, 1975	December 16, 1999	Retired	Republican
OK.WD.02.03	Heaton, Joe L.	December 6, 2001	Active	Active	Republican

<sup>10</sup>Recess appointment, November 11, 1907.

<sup>11</sup>Recess appointment, May 31, 1928.

<b>Seat Histories</b>					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
OK.WD.03.01	Eubanks, Luther B.	August 11, 1965	June 30, 1986	Retired	Democrat
OK.WD.03.02	Phillips, Layn R.	June 11, 1987	June 22, 1991	Resigned	Republican
OK.WD.03.03	Leonard, Timothy D.	August 11, 1992	August 21, 2006	Retired	Republican
OK.WD.03.04	Vacant				
OK.WD.04.01	West, Lee Roy	October 31, 1979	November 26, 1994	Retired	Democrat
OK.WD.04.02	Miles-LaGrange, Vicki Lynn <sup>12</sup>	October 7, 1994	Active	Active	Democrat
OK.WD.05.01	Alley, Wayne E.	July 10, 1985	May 16, 1999	Retired	Republican
OK.WD.05.02	Friot, Stephen P.	November 6, 2001	Active	Active	Republican
OK.WD.06.01	Cauthron, Robin J. <sup>13</sup>	March 21, 1991	Active	Active	Republican
OK.WD.07.01	Daugherty, Frederick A.	February 7, 1962 <sup>14</sup>	January 12, 1982	Retired	Democrat
OK.WD.07.02	Russell, David L.	December 16, 1981	Active	Active	Republican

---

<sup>12</sup>First African American district judge appointed from Oklahoma.

<sup>13</sup>First female district judge appointed from Oklahoma.

<sup>14</sup>Recess appointment, October 5, 1961.





