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Home Digital Paper - Tulsa Business & Legal News Daily Edition



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## DAILY BRIEFS

### Briefs, from 1

patent holder himself, had been IP Counsel for Litepanels, Inc. a developer and manufacturer of lighting products.

Holmes has an electrical engineering degree and worked as an engineer for many years before pursuing a law degree.

### BOOK SIGNING SET AT TULSA COUNTY BAR

Authors Laurence J. Yadon and Robert Barr Smith will be autographing their newest book, "One Murder Too Many" at 7 p.m. Monday, March 3 at the Tulsa County Bar Association.

The book is about Roger Wheeler, Tulsa businessman who was murdered at the Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

### SMALL BUSINESS MARKET RESEARCH WORKSHOP OFFERED

Small business owners will benefit from "Market Research to Grow Your Business," an exclusive marketing workshop scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, February 26.

This lunch-and-learn session will be held at REI Oklahoma 7615 E. 63rd Place, Suite 201. Tulsa. Registration is \$20 per person and includes lunch. Participants are encouraged to register online at [www.reiwbco.org](http://www.reiwbco.org).

Workshop presenter is Martha Gregory of Research Wizard at Tulsa City-County Library.

Gregory will showcase the best online market research resources and help attendees strengthen their marketing intelligence. Participants will learn about the top business databases and how to search them, how to profile their customers and competitors, gain insight into the individual markets, build their own prospect database, gather information for a business plan or marketing strategy, and much more.

Event partners are Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce, OEL Cooperative Extension

# They came from around the world

## 40 people participate in naturalization ceremony

BY RALPH SCHAEFER  
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Forty people representing 16 countries became U.S. citizens during naturalization ceremonies on Feb. 12.

Judge Jerome Holmes, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, and U.S. Magistrate T. Lane Wilson presided over the ceremony at Booker T. Washington High School.

New citizens and their former countries included Xiaofan Liu, People's Republic of China; Harriet Birungi Kaliisa, Uganda; Javier Enrique Pavon, Mexico; Kornkanok Meyer, Thailand; Karla Geraldina Alverado, Honduras, and En Khan Khai, Burma.

Also, Rocio Salazar Rodriguez, Mexico; Roxana Velasco De Villanueva, Mexico; Rogelio Ayala, Mexico; Javier Luevanos Villarreal, Mexico; Justin Bernard Nation,

Dominica; Marisela Sandoval, Mexico, and Lany Rifaeral Duncan, Philippines.

And, Delfina Meza De Leon, Mexico; Tuan Lam Thang, Berma; Tina Lam Bettis, Vietnam; America Hernandez, Mexico; Anna Margarita Porras, Columbia; Helwa M M Shehadeh, Jordan; Mayela Macias De Gill, Mexico; Iman Ahmad Kayed, Lebanon; Jaison Mathew, India; Luis Manuel Puentes Luevano, Mexico; Chue Lor, Thailand, Fajana Guri, Albania; Noel Anton Fernando, Sri Lanka; Jovita Chukwudi Okonkwo, Nigeria; Ruth Glorija Anton Fernando, Sri Lanka; Karina Taylor, Brazil, and Jorge Luis Vasquez Morales, Peru.

Other new citizens included: Mang Kim Sing, Burma; Milagros Sbino Nevins, Philippines; Anand Pandurengan, India; Zam Cin Kap, Burma; Elenita Delos Santos Fisher, Philippines, Gilben Umangay Javier,

Philippines; Chong Cha Gates, South Korea, and Zamlam Vung Neihkhup, Burma.

Phil Lombardi, Federal Court Clerk opened the ceremony.

James Furch, Booker T. Washington principal welcomed the visitors. The Booker T. Washington Honor Girls Choir presented a patriotic medley.

Cheyenne Carlton sang "Only In America" and Charity Barton and Chelsea House introduced Judge Holmes.

Brenda Schwartz, Citizenship and Immigration Services, introduced the petitioners and Judge Wilson led the Oath of Allegiance.

Adam Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Amari Gills led the "Star Spangled Banner."

The Colors were presented and retired by the Booker T. Washington High School ROTC. <

### Sentinels, from 1

on criminal and domestic dockets.

"The Court Reporters Week goal is to bring attention to the profession," Woodson said. "This is a very gratifying field and it is a lot of hard work."

Work generally is built into an eight-hour day, but there are exceptions.

That happens, especially on a criminal docket, when juries are out until late at night before returning a verdict.

"Court reporting doesn't require a four-year degree," Woodson said. "But the exact length of time it takes to graduate depends upon the individual.

"Learning the theory part — terms — is easy," Woodson said. Getting the to required speed is more difficult and requires

Once a hearing ends the reporter goes to his desk and starts working on what might be 250 pages of transcription.

Court reporters know anything can happen in the courtroom.

Woodson was told about a humorous incident.

The district attorney was questioning the defendant on the witness stand.

The man was asked if ever had any prior experience with the law. The defendant acknowledged that he had and said that someone had "knocked his eye out."

Even before the surprise wore off from the question, the defendant pulled out his glass eye and showed it to the court.

Even though he has never personally witnessed scenes of violence, Woodson said he has heard of instances where defendants at-

Occasionally he fills in on other dockets when a court reporter is needed and none are available from the pool.

Even with his many years of experience, he will find himself "carrying" — getting behind in his transcribing — and discussion has moved on to other topics.

When that happens he stops the proceedings and asks attorneys to repeat what had been said. That brief pause ensures the integrity of the record.

Breaks are required because of the intensity of the work.

"Judge Morrissey generally calls a recess about every 90 minutes," Woodson said. Sometimes an additional break is required and eye contact signals are given.

"Many people will sit down during breaks to rest," he said. "I prefer to stand or walk

For more information about this event or others, contact Dr. Barbara Rackley or Lori Smith at 800-658-2823, or visit [www.reiwbc.org](http://www.reiwbc.org) or [facebook.com/REIWBC](https://facebook.com/REIWBC).

**RUTHIE BLAYLOCK JONES  
TO BE HONORED**

Tulsa City-County Library's American Indian Resource Center will induct Ruthe Blalock Jones into the Circle of Honor during a special presentation at 10:30 a.m. March 1 at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St. ◀

"It would be nice if everyone talked at 40 words per minute," he said, "but the reality is that people speak at 200 words per minute or more, even up to 240 words per minute."

Oklahoma requires that court reporters accurately type 200 words per minute to be certified. The national standard is 240 words per minute.

Additional challenges are presented to court reporters when a witness has a thick accent or doesn't speak English very well.

Technology has made the language translations easier. But it still is up to the court reporter to get the document transcribed.

son went to school in the early 1990s to learn the profession. It was before computers had been adapted to the courtroom and court reporters would take their notes on the steno machine, then work on a typewriter, typing in the testimony line by line.

Woodson was drawn to the court reporting profession after trying college and deciding what he wanted to do for a career.

He had been around the legal world because his father was Creek County Judge Charles Woodson.

Woodson's responsibilities are in Judge Morrissey's courtroom and civil hearings.

language barriers pose a problem and the process is slowed so the official records can be accurately recorded.

That is why it is so important for the court reporter to ask that questions and answers be repeated.

"That is one of the challenges of the job," Woodson said.

"We need to attract new people to the profession because some are nearing retirement," he said.

The organization is strong in Oklahoma with about 300 members out of the 500 licensed court reporters belonging to the Oklahoma Court Reporters Association. ◀

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