

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Oklahoma District Attorneys Association**

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Tina Harman  
Public Information Officer  
Phone: 405-264-5000 or 1-800-959-8668  
Fax: 405-264-5099

**Oklahoma District Attorneys Association (ODAA)**  
**Welcomes**  
**District Attorney Mike Fields**  
**As its President**

Oklahoma City- Oklahoma's District Attorneys installed Canadian/Garfield/Kingfisher County District Attorney Mike Fields as president of their association at their annual meeting this past week. The Oklahoma District Attorneys Association (ODAA) named Fields president after a vote of its members. Fields, a career prosecutor of 20 years, has served as the elected District Attorney for District 4 since 2011. District 4 includes Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, and Kingfisher Counties.

"Oklahoma's prosecutors are dedicated public servants committed to protecting the public, and I'm honored to have been chosen to lead the organization this year," Fields said.

Fields said he hoped to focus on a couple of issues this year. "It's time to re-examine victims' rights in Oklahoma. Most of our victims' rights laws are 20 years old now. We need to make sure our system is doing everything it can to help crime victims. I talk to far too many victims who feel as though the system ignores them. We need to look for ways to make improvements."

Fields also said criminal justice reform is an important issue. "Genuine criminal justice reform efforts must address the root causes and the byproducts of criminal behavior rather than simply find ways to let people out of prison." Fields said reform efforts must look far "upstream" from incarceration and address issues that impact incarceration rates. "We should find ways to impact the factors that increase the likelihood someone will engage in criminal behavior. We should also address the factors that contribute to people being victimized and then in turn, victimize others or end up getting trapped in addiction."

Fields said this included such things as expanding mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment, finding ways to better protect and treat children who have been exposed to trauma, and reducing the incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault and more effectively treating those who have been victimized. Fields also pointed to the need for treatment, educational, and vocational programs inside prisons as well as improving and expanding supervision, monitoring, and re-integration services so inmates are less likely to re-offend once they're released.

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Suzanne McClain Atwood, Executive Director of the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association, is looking forward to Fields' leadership. "During Mike's 20 years as a prosecutor, he has consistently demonstrated professionalism, integrity, dedication to the rule of law, and a strong desire to seek justice. His experience, background and character will serve him well as he leads ODAA into the future. Through Mike's leadership, we will implement changes that improve the system for victims of crime, but also for all citizens of this State."