OSU Sovereignty Speaks forum to discuss U.S. Supreme Court case

Justices’ ruling could alter jurisdictional boundaries within eastern Oklahoma

WHAT: Counsel from the Muscogee Creek, Chickasaw and Cherokee Nations will address how a pending U.S. Supreme Court case could alter jurisdictional boundaries within eastern Oklahoma, including much of Tulsa County.

The speakers are:
Kevin Dellinger, attorney general for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Stephen Greetham, chief general counsel for the Chickasaw Nation
Sara Hill, secretary of natural resources for the Cherokee Nation

Panelists will speak about their experiences working on the Carpenter v. Murphy case. They will also share multiple points of view about potential impacts of the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

WHEN/WHERE: 12-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 24 in the Student Union Case Study 1 (Room 408), Stillwater campus

INFORMATION: To attend this reservation-only event, register here by 5 p.m. Friday.

WHY: Oklahoma State University’s Center for Sovereign Nations — which has a three-fold mission of sovereignty, students and partnerships — is hosting the Sovereignty Through Jurisdiction discussion at this month’s event.

“Our monthly Sovereignty Speaks luncheon is one of the most important ways we learn together about how tribal governments exercise their sovereignty,” said Elizabeth Payne, director of OSU’s Center for Sovereign Nations.

BACKGROUND: Death row inmate Patrick Murphy killed George Jacobs in 1999 in Henryetta. Murphy now claims Oklahoma courts lacked the jurisdiction to convict him because the crime occurred on Creek reservation land and that he should have been tried in federal court under the Major Crimes Act.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in November 2018 in Carpenter v. Murphy and could have a ruling by June.

The court is considering whether the 1866 territorial boundaries of the Creek Nation within the former Indian Territory of eastern Oklahoma currently constitutes an Indian reservation.
Oklahoma State University is a modern land-grant university that prepares students for success. OSU has more than 36,000 students across its five-campus system and more than 25,000 on its combined Stillwater and Tulsa campuses, with students from all 50 states and around 120 nations. Established in 1890, Oklahoma State has graduated more than 260,000 students who have been serving Oklahoma and the world for 125 years.