



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.

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