



Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

Media Contact: Harve Allen, Director of Communications

**Phone: (405) 604-6916; Cell: (405) 301-3230; E-mail: harve.allen@oac.state.ok.us
3700 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 240, Oklahoma City, OK 73118**

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 17, 2007

Stephenson Named Chairman of Aeronautics Commission

OKLAHOMA CITY – **Oklahoma City** attorney Tom Stephenson was recently selected to serve as chairman for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission through fiscal year 2008, which began July 1 and ends June 30, 2008.

Other newly elected officers are Joe Ogden of **Claremore**, vice chairman, and Joe Harris of **Blackwell**, secretary. The remaining members of the Commission include Kenneth Adams of **Bartlesville**, Dave Amis III of **Oklahoma City**, Mary Smith of **Tulsa** and Wes Stucky of **Ardmore**.

Commissioners selected Stephenson as chairman during their June meeting. He will lead the seven-member board that is responsible for encouraging, fostering and assisting in the development of aviation in Oklahoma. This includes the preservation and improvement of the state's 114 public airports and promotion of the state's top employer—the aviation industry.

Stephenson, who was appointed to the Commission in January 2004, is a long-time distinguished attorney with offices in Oklahoma City and Watonga, Okla. Since 1991, he has been a partner in the law firm of Stephenson & Webber and has served as a special judge in Oklahoma Municipal Court since 1994. He also served as a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association's Professional Responsibility Tribunal from 1994-2000.

A private pilot and an aviation enthusiast, Stephenson has taught aviation law as an adjunct professor at Rose State College in Midwest City, Okla., and as an adjunct professor in the Social Sciences Department at Oklahoma City Community College. He holds memberships in several local, state and national law organizations, including the Blaine County and Kingfisher County bar associations, Oklahoma Trial Lawyers of America and the American Bar Association.

Stephenson earned his law degree from Oklahoma City University, where he later earned a Master of Liberal Arts.

A commissioner since 2005, Ogden is a senior program manager in the Interiors and Structures Division for the Nordam Group in Tulsa. He also serves as a member of the Claremore City Council. Ogden has a distinguished background as a longtime volunteer and aviation enthusiast. Past positions he has held include serving in various management positions for Pratt & Whitney, a division of United Technologies Corporation.

Ogden started his career in the U.S. Navy and served as a project manager on a naval submarine base in Groton, Conn., and as company commander with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three (Seabees) stationed out of Port Hueneme, Calif.

Ogden earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, and a Master of Business Administration from the Yale School of Management in New Haven, Conn. He also briefly attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

Harris has served as general manager/chief executive officer of Kay Electric Cooperative for the past 18 years. Prior to his work for the electric cooperative, he served as director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives from 1984 to 1989. He also served as assistant director for the Public Utility Division and director of Energy Conservation Services Division for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission from 1981 to 1984.

Harris' professional affiliations include serving as chairman of the board for the National Information Solutions Cooperative in St. Charles, Mo., and director of the Energy Co-Opportunity, Inc. Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. He also served for 10 years as chairman of the Blackwell-Tonkawa Airport Trust Authority and as a member of the Authority for 16 years. He is a member of the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association, Experimental Aircraft Association and Antique Airplane Association.

A licensed pilot for 34 years and whose hobbies include restoring antique airplanes, Harris earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental science and industrial arts from East Central University in Ada.