



J. Herschel Beard
Chairman
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MARCH "MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD"

It truly is an honor for me to serve as Chairman of the Oklahoma Abstractors Board. As I told the Oklahoma Land Title Association at their February Owners-Managers meeting, if anyone would have told me two years ago that I would be in this position today, or that we would have this Board at all, I would not have believed them. For many in this industry, the OAB is the realization of a dream we've dreamed for 25 years. At last, we have our own regulation agency and the power to police ourselves.

While our critics may have said we could or would not do that, I disagree. I believe we're taking steps to put into place rules that will allow us to enforce the law and hold our colleagues to the highest standards of ethical practice and conduct.

I am very proud of what our Board has accomplished to date. Building a state agency does not happen overnight. It takes thoughtful planning, vision, and deliberate actions to move forward. Just like learning to walk, taking one step at a time until you are steady and confident on your feet.

We have employed an excellent staff in our Executive Director, Glynda Reppond, and Administrative Assistant, Terri McNulty. Both are making substantial contributions to our efforts to be professional and to getting the job done. Our licensing and testing procedures are going very smoothly this year thanks to their hard work.

Our committees are working diligently to accomplish the tasks assigned. We are sound financially. We are trying to be good stewards of the resources provided by our industry. We have no plans to ever request appropriations from the State legislature but to remain self-sufficient in our regulatory mission.

Our rules committee has spent countless hours reviewing the emergency rules in an effort to write permanent rules which will go into effect July 15th of this year. We gratefully acknowledge the input from many of you, especially those on the OLTA Uniformity Committee, who have attended several all-day sessions to pour over these rules, word by word. These proposed rules truly are a product of many great minds in our industry and it is our hope they will serve us well for many years as we use them to interpret and enforce our laws.

In closing, I want you to know that each one of our Board members takes their position on this Board seriously. The cliché that “our door is always open” certainly applies, but it might be better paraphrased that “our phones are always on and we do read and answer our e-mails!”

I believe our job as Board members, and as an agency, is to serve our industry, to promote and demand ethical practices and conduct so that we all can help the citizens of Oklahoma achieve their goal of home ownership.

Sincerely,

J. Herschel Beard
Chairman