

JIM T. PRIEST J.D.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma | Email: jim@sage-counsel.com

SUMMARY

Chief Executive Officer, Licensed Attorney, Nonprofit Leader, and Communication Leader with extensive experience in private, public and non-profit sectors. Organizational, community and administrative experience includes donor and media relations, community outreach, strategic planning, budget oversight, fundraising, grant management, personnel management, dynamic lectures and presentations. Highly skilled in advocacy and communication issues for diverse clients and industries. Extensive experience in donor services, public speaking, and writing, including three published books and weekly columns in The Oklahoman.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Founder and President
Denied Roofing Claims
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

July 2025- Present

- Denied Roofing Claims is a d/b/a of Sage Counsel PLLC assisting individuals whose roofing insurance claims have been handled improperly by homeowners' insurance companies, providing consultations and intake services to support homeowners in obtaining the rightful compensation they deserve.

**Founder and President
Sage Counsel, PLLC
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

May 2019-Present

- Founder and President of a professional limited liability corporation providing counsel, executive coaching, training, strategic consulting, and mediation/arbitration services.

**Senior Consultant
Strata Leadership, LLC
Oklahoma**

**May 2019-Present
Oklahoma City,**

- Provide speaking, training and executive coaching to clients of Strata consistent with the Strata mission of "Elevating Life at Work."

**President and CEO
Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma**

March 2020- June 2024

- Provided strategic direction to and lead a 950 employee, \$40m nonprofit organization the helps people overcome challenges to employment and transforms lives through the power of work.

- Co authored the history of Goodwill in the published book “More Than A Store”.
- Named a Top Workplace every year since assuming the CEO role.
- Increased annual revenue from 30m to 48m in three years and doubled the workforce development programming.
- Elected to the Goodwill Industries International Board of Directors

**Chief Executive Officer
Sunbeam Family Services, Inc.**

**2014 – 2019
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

- Provided point leadership to a 110 year old non-profit with a sixteen million dollar budget and 175 employees, providing services to the poor and working poor including counseling, foster care, early childhood education and senior services.
- Budget increased from \$7 million to \$16 million.
- Initiated the first annual fundraising dinner for Sunbeam.
- Initiated the first published history of Sunbeam with co-author Bob Burke
- Re-organized the organizational chart and created a new strategic plan
- Instituted a new “employee first” initiative, changing the culture, raising morale and significantly reducing turnover earning “Best Places to Work” recognition for five years
- Coached and mentored the Senior Leadership Team
- Selected in 2017 as a “Most Admired CEO” by the Journal Record business newspaper

**Executive Director
F.A.T.E. INC., "Fighting Addiction Through Education" Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

2011 – 2014

- Directed start-up activities for a substance abuse prevention education non-profit group including creation and implementation of organizational initiatives, strategic plans and all corresponding founding documents.
- Developed and presented live interactive presentations to large audiences.
- Named 2011 Preventionist of the Year by the American Athletic Institute for work with Oklahoma Life of An Athlete, substance abuse prevention education.
- F.A.T.E. was named one of the 2012 “Affiliates of the Year” by the Partnership at drugfree.org.

**Attorney at Law
RUBENSTEIN & PITTS LAW FIRM**

**2011 – 2014
Edmond, Oklahoma**

- Of counsel. Representing a wide variety of clients in employment, civil rights and business litigation and counseling; presenting seminars to legal and business groups on diverse legal and ethics related subjects. Handled cases, as a volunteer, for Oklahoma Lawyers for Children representing young children in child welfare cases.

Adjunct Professor of Law

2012 to 2014

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- Provided instruction in the areas of complex litigation and employment law.

Attorney, Partner

2005 – 2011

WHITTEN BURRAGE

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- Provided advice and advocacy for clients in employment, civil rights and complex litigation matters; acted as counsel and advisor to businesses and individuals on legal and personal matters.
- Facilitated extensive written and oral advocacy on behalf of a wide variety of clients.
- Developed content for publications and delivered presentations to audiences of the Oklahoma Bar Association.
- Created website content for www.employmentarmor.com, an employment law related website providing information and answers to workplace issues.

Pastor to Marriages and Men

2001-2005

Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- Served as a part time volunteer staff member, focusing on spiritual formation of engaged and married couples.
- Led ministry to men through weekly Bible studies, retreats, seminars and discipleship.
- Preached as requested and coordinated with other pastoral and lay ministry leaders.

Attorney, Member of the Board of Directors

1980 – 2005

MCKINNEY & STRINGER

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- Served on the Executive and Management committees with oversight of budget, personnel and operations for a 70 member, \$10 million dollar revenue organization.
- Organized and served as the administrative head for the Labor and Employment Services section for the firm; supervised activities of 10 attorneys responsible for the management of labor and employment functions with budget oversight of \$1 million.
- Orchestrated and led the firm's annual employment law seminar attended by over five hundred clients.
- Coordinated complex litigation matters with every area of the firm including police misconduct and civil rights, environmental, corporate, commercial, insurance, and business litigation.
- Provided counsel on a wide range of subjects, including legal compliance, strategic planning, employment, human resource issues, and corporate

governance to top management of client companies, boards of directors and human resource professionals.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, *Magna Cum Laude* 1977-1980

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Syracuse, New York

- Teaching Assistant, Dean's List, Order of the Coif, Justinian Society
- Member of the 1979 National Championship Mock Trial Team

Bachelor of Arts – History, *Magna Cum Laude* 1973-1977

HOUGHTON COLLEGE, Houghton, New York

Nazarene Pastoral Course of Study resulting in ordination April 26, 2004

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 selected as 2023 Oklahoma Top 50 Power Leaders in Workplace Diversity
- 2022 selected as "Top 10 Inspiring Leaders of 2022" by IE magazine
- 2017 selected as a Most Admired CEO by The Journal Record business newspaper
- Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium "Executive Pilot" Award for outstanding ethical leadership in the state of Oklahoma 2014
- Earl Sneed Award for Outstanding Contribution to Continuing Legal Education by Oklahoma Bar Association
- Annually named in the publication The Best Lawyers in America
- Annually named "Best of the Best" in Labor and Employment Law by Oklahoma Business Monthly magazine
- Named a "Best Lawyer" by Corporate Counsel magazine
- Annually named a "Super Lawyer" by peer Oklahoma attorneys
- Selected as a "Leader in the Law" by the Journal Record, Oklahoma City's business newspaper

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Guest Columnist, "On The Job" in the Journal Record newspaper 2021- present
- Weekly Columnist for the *Oklahoman* on family issues 1996-2006, 2016-2020
- Weekly Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader, and occasional speaker at Bethany First Church of the Nazarene and other churches in the state.
- Organizer and Presenter for 20 years: OBA Law of the Workplace seminar
- Founder Oklahoma Life of An Athlete a substance abuse prevention education website and program
<https://www.okloa.org/>
- Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Former Board Member and President
- Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene, Former Board Member
- Variety Health Center, Former Board Member
- Habitat for Humanity, Former Board Member
- Marriage Network Oklahoma, Co-founder, www.marriagenetworkok.net
- Butterfield Memorial Foundation Former Board Member

- Leadership Oklahoma City Alumni Association Former Board Member
- Founding Member and former board member Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium
- Member Leadership Oklahoma, Leadership Oklahoma City and Leadership Edmond
- KWTW News 9 interview guest on substance abuse and marriage and family issues
- Frequent author and speaker on substance abuse, workplace issues, ethics, marriage and family issues.

PUBLICATIONS

The Lawyer as Employer: Why Do They Keep Changing the Rules? GP Solo, a publication of the American Bar Association, Jan/Feb 2007, Volume 24, Number 1

How to Construct Your Own Successful Employment Case, A Handy Guide for the Practitioner, Oklahoma Bar Journal, Vol. 77, No. 9, March 2006

Recent Developments in Oklahoma Class Action Law, University of Oklahoma Law Review, Volume 57, No. 4 (2005)

Watch Your Neck on White-Collar Exemption for Legal Assistants, Oklahoma Bar Journal, November 2004

Pro Bono Aid Needed Now More Than Ever, American Bar Association Journal, June 1996

The Shape of Things to Come, Oklahoma Bar Journal, Volume 68, No. 35, September 1997

Off Limits: Protect Your Employees from Harassment, Entrepreneur magazine, August 1998

After Acquired Evidence: Two Wrongs Can Make a Civil Right, Oklahoma Bar Journal, Vol. 66, No. 29, July 1995

Defending Police Misconduct Suits, AM JUR Trials, Volume 38, 1989

The Wake of Hinson v. Cameron: Choppy Waters for the Law of Wrongful Discharge, Oklahoma Bar Journal, Vol. 59 No. 40, October 1988

Employment Law. Oklahoma Police Chief Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 3 Summer 1986, Vol. 2 No. 1 Winter 1987

Defending Police Misconduct Suits, For the Defense magazine, August and September 1986

Oklahoma's Bad Faith Evolution, Oklahoma Bar Journal, Vol. 56 No. 21, May 1985

Books

Leadership is an Inside Job, published 2022 Dorrance Publishing

More Than A Store, The history of Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma, published 2021 with co-author Bob Burke, Oklahoma Hall of Fame Publishing

Changed Lives, The History of Sunbeam Family Services, published 2016 with co-author Bob Burke, Oklahoma Hall of Fame Publishing

What's Your Fate? substance abuse in Oklahoma, published by Dustjacket 2012

Family Talk, a compilation of family advice newspaper columns originally published in the Oklahoman newspaper, published 1999