



U.S. Department of Justice

**DAVID E. O'MEILIA**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

June 11, 2009  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

### **Tulsa's U. S. Attorney Leaving Office**

United States Attorney David E. O'Meilia today announced his resignation effective at midnight on June 28, 2009. Mr. O'Meilia plans to re-enter the private practice of law, joining a Tulsa law firm.

Mr. O'Meilia, who became U.S. Attorney following five years of civil litigation law practice in Tulsa, was previously an Assistant U.S. Attorney for over 10 years with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. He also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Florida and as Senior Litigation Counsel in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tulsa.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University and the University of Tulsa College of Law, Mr. O'Meilia began his career as a Tulsa County Assistant Public Defender, later was an instructor at the University of Tulsa in its Criminal Justice Department, and spent four years as an Assistant District Attorney prosecuting high profile criminal cases.

Mr. O'Meilia became Acting U.S. Attorney on October 5, 2001, after his nomination by President George W. Bush. Upon his confirmation by the United States Senate, he became the presidentially appointed U.S. Attorney on December 5, 2001. During his tenure as United States Attorney, Mr. O'Meilia served on various subcommittees which advise the Attorney General of the United States on priority policy issues. For over 7 ½ years he served on the Native American Issues Subcommittee where for a period he was Coordinator of the Indian Gaming Working Group, and on the Controlled Substances Subcommittee, where for a period he formed and coordinated the Internet Pharmacy Working Group addressing distribution of drugs by unregulated rogue internet pharmacies. Additionally, he served on the Anti-Terrorism Subcommittee and also, on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Advisory Committee. In 2007 he received the

Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Division Chief's Award. Mr. O'Meilia formed the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force (now the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee). He implemented the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative addressing guns and gun violence in the Northern District and developed, along with the Tulsa Mayor and Tulsa Police Department, numerous successful anti-street gang and gang prevention initiatives, some that have received national recognition.

Further, as U.S. Attorney he successfully prosecuted the public corruption case against Tulsa Police Department Gang Unit detective Rico Yarbrough. Mr. O'Meilia oversaw the prosecutions arising from "Operation South Haven" which received the Department of Justice's 2007 Asset Forfeiture national award and also, the 107 federal and state prosecutions generated by the U.S. Attorney's "Operation Ceasefire" which was recognized at the 2007 Project Safe Neighborhoods National Achievement Awards as one of four "Outstanding Gang Investigations" in the United States.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Oklahoma covers 11 northeastern Oklahoma counties. The U.S. Attorney's Office has 26 attorneys and is responsible for conducting all criminal and civil litigation in the district involving the United States.