



Judge Kenneth M. Stoner

Oklahoma County District Judge

Prior to being appointed by the Governor to the position of District Judge, Judge Stoner spent seven years practicing criminal defense law, primarily focusing his practice on representing people with addiction and mental health issues. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Oklahoma County. Judge Stoner plans on spending the remainder of his career working on issues surrounding addiction and its intersection with the criminal justice system.

In a state where drug use is rampant and incarceration rates are among the nation's highest, Judge Stoner runs a program designed to keep addicted Oklahomans out of prison.

Judge Stoner oversees about 400 participants in Oklahoma County's drug court program. There are at least another 250 defendants in the system who are a fit for the program, he said, but there isn't room.

Across the state, 59 drug courts offer an alternative for those who struggle with substance abuse and have been charged with a nonviolent felony. Some courts serve multiple counties. Residents in the panhandle, Cimarron, Texas, and Beaver counties, are the only Oklahomans without access to drug court. Rates of substance abuse in those counties are higher than the state average for adults and kids 12 to 17, according to federal [data](#).

Most courts serve adults, but a few counties also offer juvenile and family drug courts catering to parents with children in state custody.

Judicial discretion means requirements and sanctions look different in every courtroom.

Judge Stoner is a sixth-generation Oklahoman and a member of the Cherokee Nation. He has been married for 26 years and has three teenage sons who are not too impressed with any of his accomplishments. He enjoys a variety of physical activities such as biking, longboarding, camping, hiking, diving, gardening, and adventure travel.