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OKLAHOMA

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# A Message from CAIR Leadership



***“When we founded CAIR Oklahoma 7 years ago, we never envisioned that we would be at the forefront of major civil rights issues in the state of Oklahoma. It has been an honor to serve the Oklahoma community in this capacity.”***

- Saad Mohammad, Board Chair | CAIR Oklahoma

*In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

Dear Friends and Fellow Oklahomans,

Assalamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You).

On behalf of the CAIR staff, board, and family, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support in sustaining our efforts to promote a more just and inclusive Oklahoma.

Each year brings a new set of challenges, and 2012 was no exception. In 2012, CAIR Oklahoma's staff and board continued their commitment to serving the Oklahoma Muslim community and building bridges of understanding and acceptance for individuals of all faiths. As we look to the coming year, let us remind ourselves of the example of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who had a dream of equality, brotherhood, and justice for all Americans. This dream is still very much alive in the minds and hearts of Oklahoma Muslims and a dream that CAIR Oklahoma will continue to work towards in carrying on the legacy of civil rights leaders.

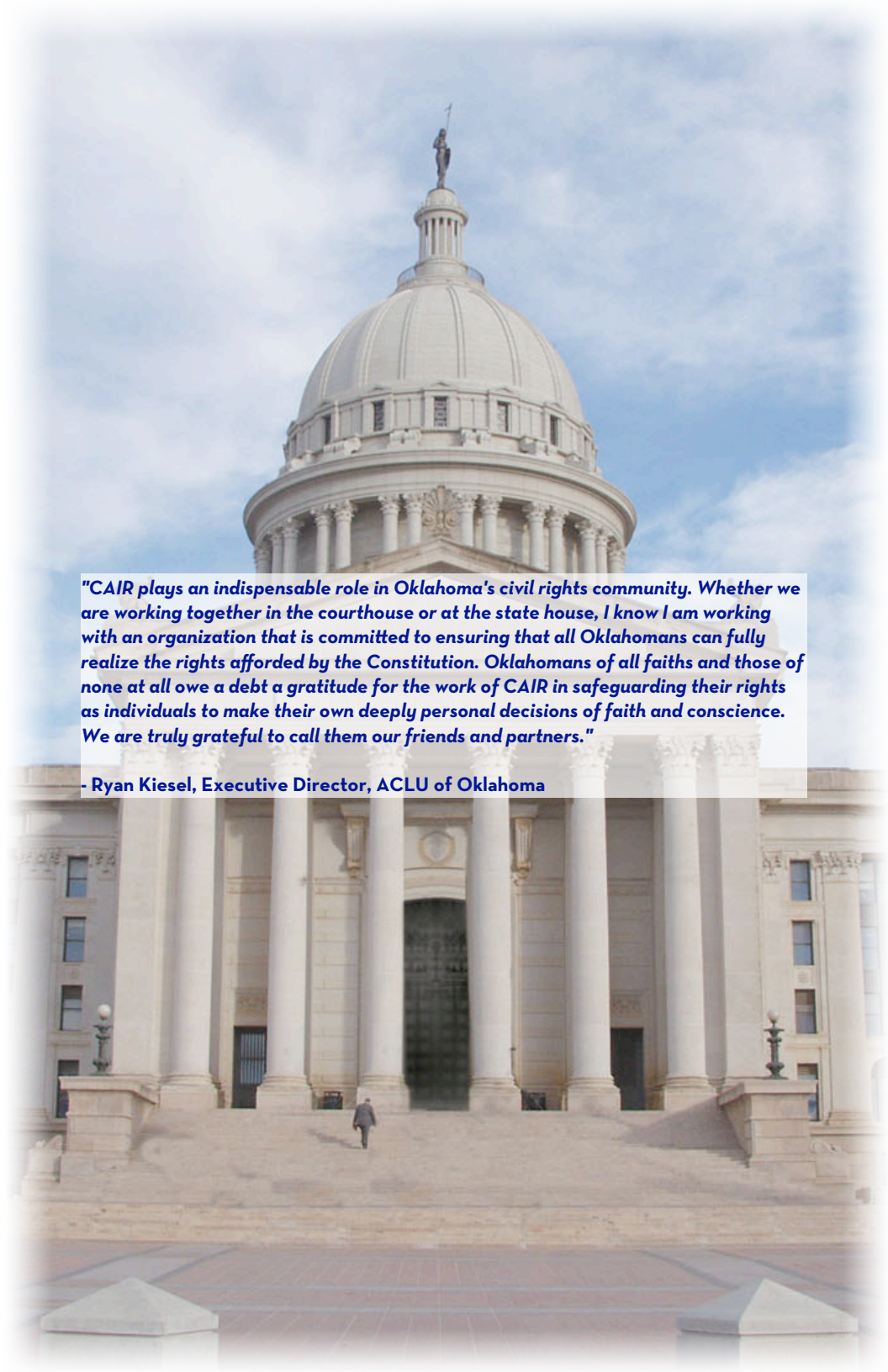
CAIR Oklahoma continues to grow as an organization serving our community, and 2012 was a testament to that growth. In the past year CAIR Oklahoma has welcomed new staff and board members, established new programs and initiatives while continuing the success of previously established programs, and furthered the pursuit of protecting civil liberties for not only Oklahoma Muslims, but all Oklahomans regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, or gender.

As we reflect upon the accomplishments of this past year, we must also recognize that there is still much work to be done. CAIR Oklahoma's team is committed to working to defend the rights of Oklahomans through its ongoing advocacy work. Our commitment is to work harder and smarter on your behalf and to not rest until Oklahoma is a place where discrimination no longer exists.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2013 and beyond!

- Saad Mohammad, Board Chair | CAIR Oklahoma



A photograph of the Oklahoma State Capitol building, featuring a large white dome topped with a statue of a person holding a torch. The building has classical columns and a wide set of steps leading to the entrance. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*"CAIR plays an indispensable role in Oklahoma's civil rights community. Whether we are working together in the courthouse or at the state house, I know I am working with an organization that is committed to ensuring that all Oklahomans can fully realize the rights afforded by the Constitution. Oklahomans of all faiths and those of none at all owe a debt of gratitude for the work of CAIR in safeguarding their rights as individuals to make their own deeply personal decisions of faith and conscience. We are truly grateful to call them our friends and partners."*

- Ryan Kiesel, Executive Director, ACLU of Oklahoma

# Working Towards a Better Oklahoma



***“Our hope is that by serving the Oklahoma Muslim community, we are also serving the Oklahoma community at large. We want to make Oklahoma a better state for individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, or faith preference.”***

- Adam Soltani, Executive Director | CAIR Oklahoma

*In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

Dear Friends and Fellow Oklahomans,

Assalamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You).

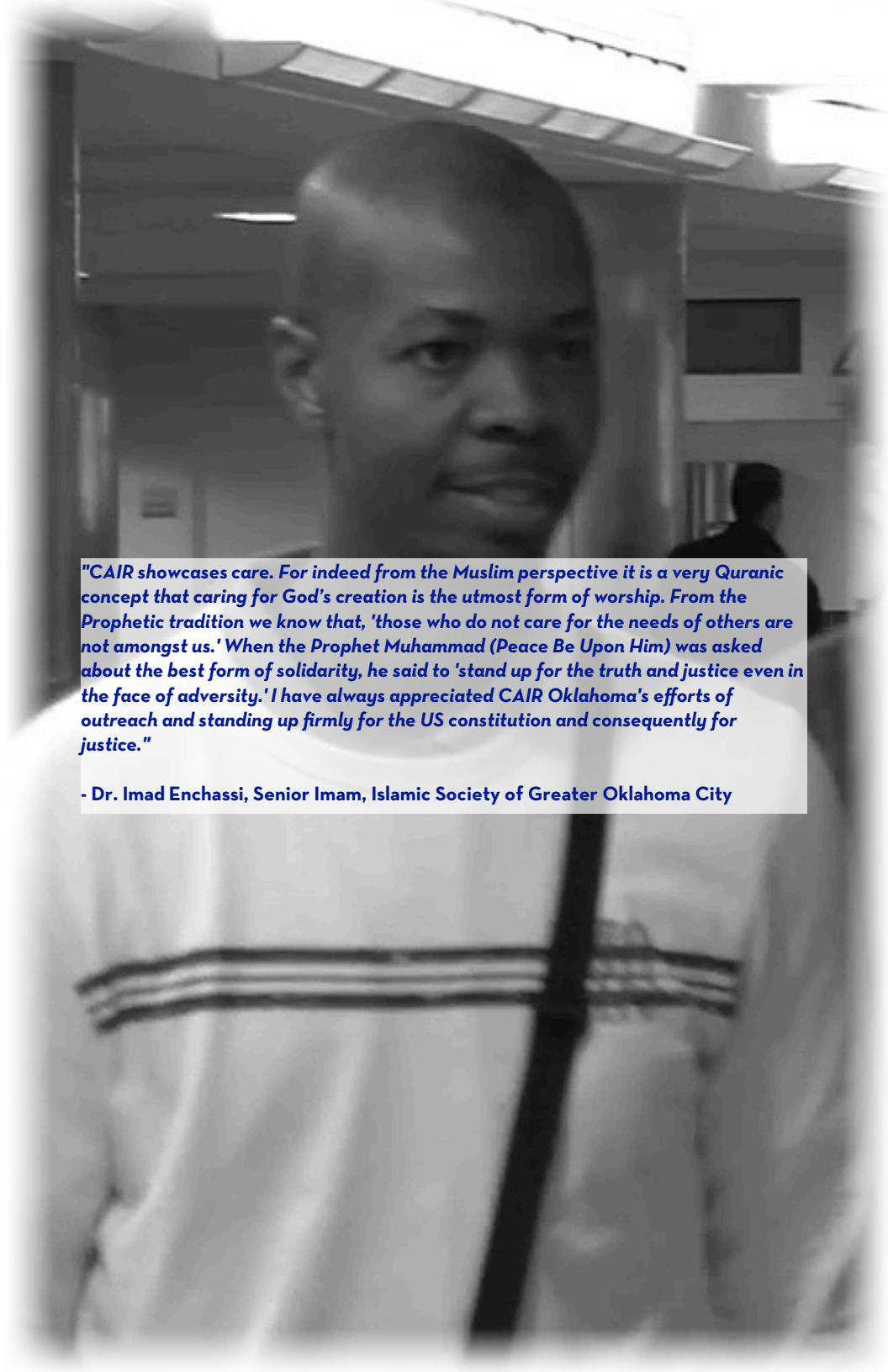
Oklahoma is such a wonderfully unique place to be supporting the expansion of religious understanding, interfaith dialogue, and civil liberties, as the Islamic community here is both proactive and progressive. Along with a growing Oklahoma Muslim community, we have seen in recent years the overwhelming support of the growing interfaith community in Oklahoma that has demonstrated that we can work together towards making our state a better place to live. CAIR Oklahoma has been honored to be at the forefront of initiatives that have allowed Oklahomans to get to know one another better such as our *Art in the Heartland* events and *Know the Legacy* campaign.

In my first year with CAIR Oklahoma, we have seen new challenges arise, felt the tide of Islamophobia sweep across our nation, and continued our pursuit of civil liberties for Oklahoma Muslims in the face of great difficulties. With these difficult times, CAIR Oklahoma is also witnessing the overwhelming support of the interfaith community as we work alongside a multitude of wonderful Oklahoma based organizations that support the vision of a just Oklahoma for us all. Oklahoma is a state that Oklahoma Muslims are proud to call home, a great place for us all to grow spiritually and socially.

I believe the work that CAIR Oklahoma does in the coming years will be crucial to fostering a culture where the promotion of successful interfaith dialogue and civil liberties advocacy is of the utmost importance. I am honored to be a part of CAIR Oklahoma, where its board, staff, and supporters are truly committed to progressive activism and comprehensively serving the needs of Oklahoma's Muslim community.

Adam Soltani, Executive Director | CAIR Oklahoma





*"CAIR showcases care. For indeed from the Muslim perspective it is a very Quranic concept that caring for God's creation is the utmost form of worship. From the Prophetic tradition we know that, 'those who do not care for the needs of others are not amongst us.' When the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was asked about the best form of solidarity, he said to 'stand up for the truth and justice even in the face of adversity.' I have always appreciated CAIR Oklahoma's efforts of outreach and standing up firmly for the US constitution and consequently for justice."*

**- Dr. Imad Enchassi, Senior Imam, Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City**

# Pursuing Our Freedoms



***"No US citizen should be denied the right to return to his or her own country. Saadiq Long is an American-born, U.S. Air force veteran and there is no excuse for denying him the right to visit his terminally ill mother."***

- Adam Soltani, Executive Director | CAIR Oklahoma

In April 2012, Saadiq Long attempted to board a flight from Doha, Qatar to his hometown in Oklahoma. Long, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, converted to Islam in the 1980s and moved to Qatar to teach English in 2000. Throughout this time abroad, the Oklahoma native maintained close contact with his family in McAlester, Oklahoma, and hoped to return after learning his mother had fallen seriously ill.

After purchasing his ticket, arriving at the airport, and attempting to board the flight, though, Long was blocked from returning to the U.S. For reasons unknown to him, Long had been placed on the U.S. no-fly list, thus barring him from traveling to his own country. Though he has no criminal record and no idea why he would be on the list, when he sought help from the U.S. Embassy and the Department of Homeland Security, Long found answers from neither.

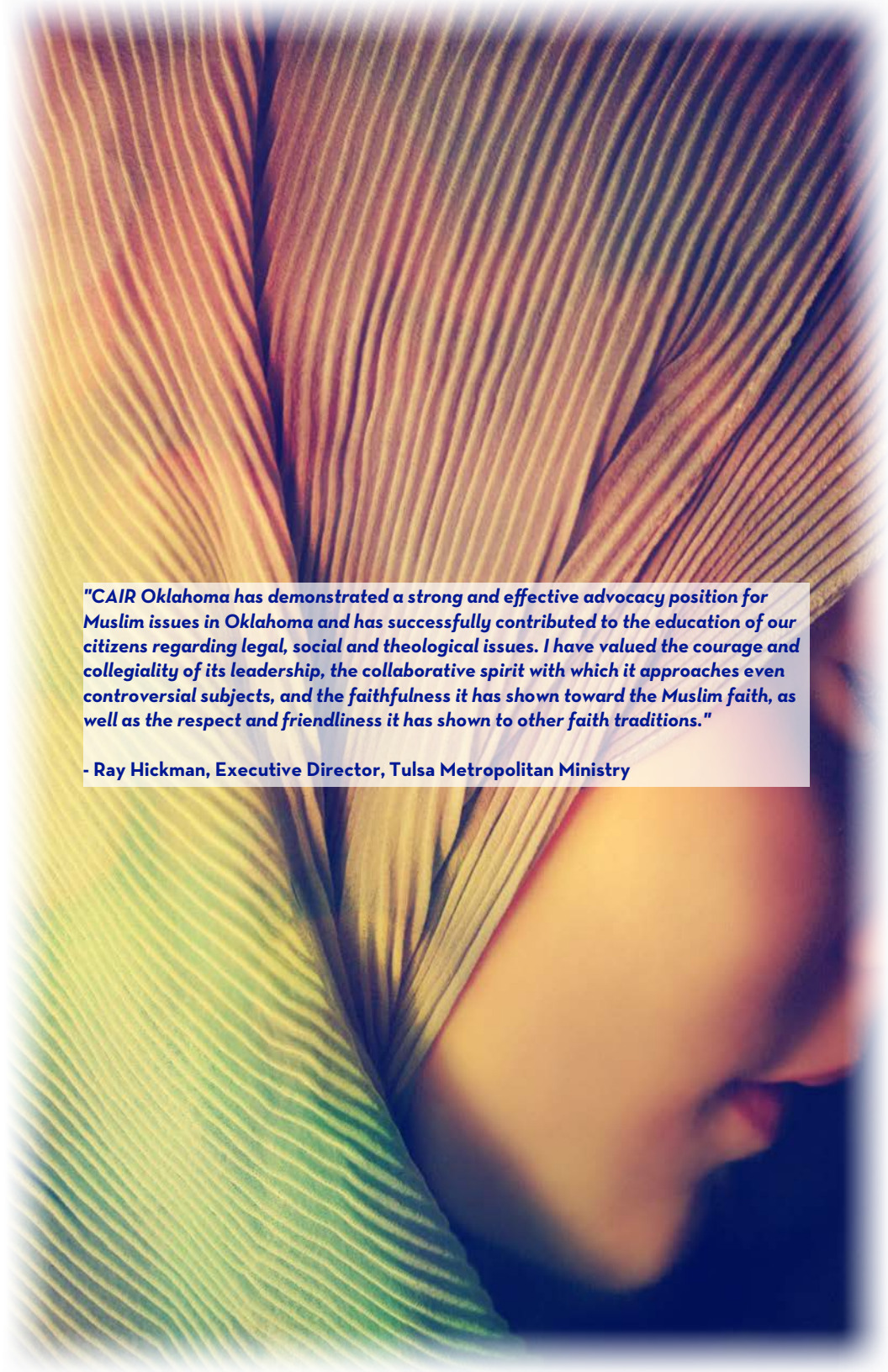
After months of frustration, Long's family contacted CAIR Oklahoma, and in August 2012, CAIR Oklahoma took on Long's case. After reaching out to the FBI, TSA, and DHS, CAIR Oklahoma was finally able to help Long fly back to Oklahoma on November 19, 2012, allowing him to spend the holidays reunited with his family.

The victory was bittersweet, though, as FBI agents continued to harass Long and his family throughout his time in Oklahoma over the holidays, both at his mother's residence and in public with his sister Ava Anderson of Oklahoma City. With the help of CAIR Oklahoma, Long and his family were finally able to find relief after holding a press conference and calling on the local FBI to cease the inappropriate and unnecessary harassment.

When Long attempted to return to Qatar on February 6, 2013, he was again prohibited from boarding his flight, with TSA officials citing security concerns but providing no definitive answers and leveling no charges. Following another failed attempt to board a flight from Oklahoma City to return to Doha, Qatar, Long was left with little choice but to resort to traveling back to Qatar via Argentina in order to avoid traveling through U.S. airspace. In a five-day long journey, Long traveled via bus and plane from McAlester, Oklahoma to Buenos Aires, Argentina and was finally allowed to fly via Turkish Airlines to Qatar via Istanbul, Turkey. "My family and I want to thank all the individuals at CAIR Oklahoma for shedding light on my challenges, defending my rights as an American citizen, and for all other forms of support you provided," said Saadiq Long upon returning to Qatar, "Continue in the great work that you do to protect the rights of Oklahomans."







*"CAIR Oklahoma has demonstrated a strong and effective advocacy position for Muslim issues in Oklahoma and has successfully contributed to the education of our citizens regarding legal, social and theological issues. I have valued the courage and collegiality of its leadership, the collaborative spirit with which it approaches even controversial subjects, and the faithfulness it has shown toward the Muslim faith, as well as the respect and friendliness it has shown to other faith traditions."*

**- Ray Hickman, Executive Director, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry**



# Protecting Our Civil Rights



***"Singling out Muslim women or other people of faith who wear religiously-mandated head coverings that do not hinder identification is inappropriate and discriminatory. All customers should be treated equally regardless of their faith or religious practices."***

- Amber Siddiqui, Board of Directors | CAIR Oklahoma

In early October 2012, an Oklahoma Muslim woman was trying to check one more item off her daily to-do list as she walked into Tulsa's Valley National Bank to conduct business. Instead, her errand was cut short, as the bank's security prohibited her from entering while she was wearing a hijab- a symbol of her faith as an American Muslim woman.

She was given two unreasonable and equally demeaning options- remove the hijab or be escorted throughout the establishment by bank security. Humiliated, she rejected both options by choosing to leave the situation and seemingly leave her civil rights as an American at the bank as well. Having recognized the blatant discrimination on behalf of Valley National's policies, she contacted CAIR Oklahoma in order to help resolve a situation that no person of faith wants to encounter while wearing something that represents their religious tradition.

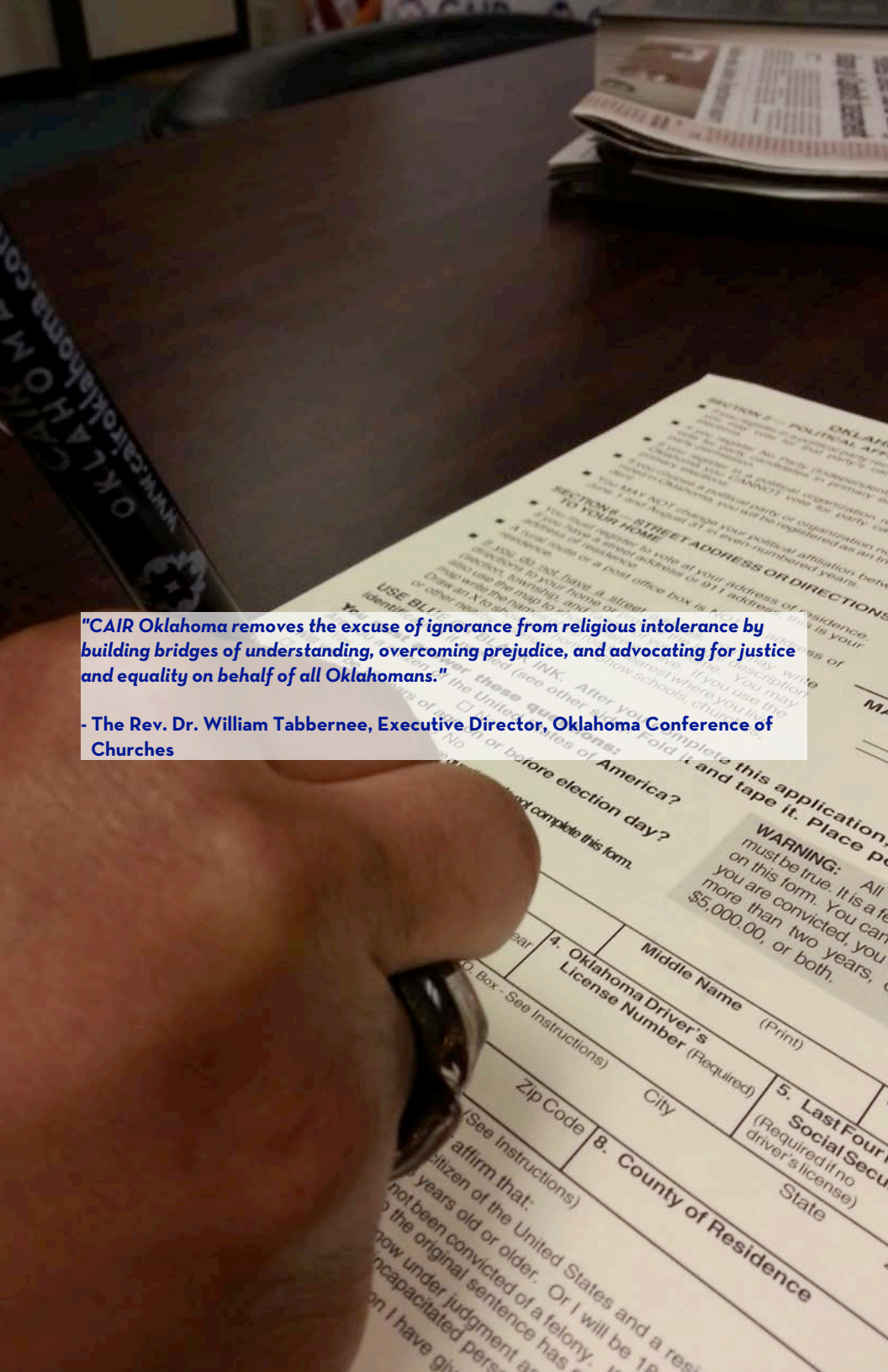
CAIR Oklahoma immediately asked the Tulsa bank to review and revise their policies regarding religious head coverings, not only for Muslims, but also for people of all faith traditions. CAIR Oklahoma took note to emphasize that Valley National had CAIR Oklahoma's full support in upholding the bank's security procedures, but prompted the bank to remove its policy of possible religious discrimination. In the days after the controversial incident, CAIR Oklahoma received the most media coverage since the chapter's inception, which highlights Oklahomans' growing concern for the state's Muslim community.

Following weeks of dialogues between CAIR Oklahoma, various civil rights and interfaith groups, and the Oklahoma Bankers Association, the Oklahoma Bankers Association affirmed the need for Oklahoma banks to accommodate the needs of Oklahomans who choose to wear religious coverings. Many lessons were taught by this dramatic shift in policy, which now ensures inclusivity and fosters religious pluralism. Through CAIR Oklahoma's relentless work, Oklahoma bank employees were not only able to become educated on religious clothing requirements, but they were also encouraged to understand that preserving the dignity of customers from various faiths can be complementary to maintaining bank security. This case highlights the truly diverse community that CAIR Oklahoma serves and should remind those in the majority to remain attentive to the needs of their fellow Oklahomans who are often forgotten. Still, the success of this change in policy, while championed by CAIR Oklahoma, should be shared by all of Oklahoma's interfaith groups and underrepresented citizens, as the preservation of civil rights is a win for all.



**"CAIR Oklahoma removes the excuse of ignorance from religious intolerance by building bridges of understanding, overcoming prejudice, and advocating for justice and equality on behalf of all Oklahomans."**

**- The Rev. Dr. William Tabbernee, Executive Director, Oklahoma Conference of Churches**



# Strengthening Our Political Voice



***“The ‘Voice Your Vote’ campaign is designed to provide the Oklahoma Muslim community with tools they need to be more engaged and represented in the political process.”***

- Sheryl Siddiqui, Board of Directors | CAIR Oklahoma

Throughout the 2012 election season, CAIR Oklahoma hosted a series of voter registration drives throughout the state at local mosques and community centers, in a series of events entitled *Voice Your Vote*. The aim of *Voice Your Vote* is to empower the Oklahoma Muslim community to get involved and to become more aware, engaged, and represented in the political process.

As part of this campaign to engage, educate, and empower the Oklahoma Muslim community through the election process, CAIR Oklahoma released a guide to voting in Oklahoma. The guide included information on when and where to vote, contacting local Republican and Democratic parties, and what to bring on election day, as well as an informative breakdown of the ballot's state questions and their implications for our state.

CAIR Oklahoma hosted *Voice Your Vote* events in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Stillwater, Edmond, and other cities throughout Oklahoma as a part of this campaign. Nationwide, the *Voice Your Vote* campaign helped register tens of thousands of American Muslims as new voters, ensuring that the voices of the American Muslim community, as a whole, become a vital part of the political process.

The *Voice Your Vote* campaign reemphasizes CAIR Oklahoma's commitment to community activism and involvement. Oklahoma Muslims have become increasingly concerned with ensuring that their voices are heard by local, state, and national officials. CAIR Oklahoma provides numerous resources in order for Muslims in the state to become educated on various political issues so that they can provide constructive insights on such topics. CAIR Oklahoma also lends itself to support religious minorities and those that are generally disenfranchised within a system in which to become involved on the issues that matter most to their respective communities.

Remember, if we don't vote, we can't complain.







*"CAIR Oklahoma has been a constructive and positive presence for interfaith dialogue and understanding of the Muslim tradition. Their efforts for civil rights and religious freedom are a welcome voice in the midst of public confusion spawned by ignorance and religious bigotry. I commend CAIR Oklahoma and invite others to become acquainted with their work."*

**- Rev. Jeff Hamilton, Immediate Past President, The Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma**

# Embracing Our Diversity



***“Oklahoma is a place where we have a long standing history of unique artistic experiences, and now is the opportunity for our fellow Oklahomans to get to experience art through the eyes and ears of the Oklahoma Muslim.”***

**- Thomaira Babbit, Development Coordinator | CAIR Oklahoma**

CAIR Oklahoma's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Art in the Heartland* took place Wednesday, November 14, 2012, at Oklahoma City University (OCU). The event, co-hosted by OCU's Muslim Student Organization (MSO), is a local initiative inspired by Islamic faith and culture, and offers an outlet for Oklahoma Muslims to combat stereotypes through creative expression while forging a dialogue within the broader Oklahoma community.

*Art in the Heartland* 2012 featured a wide array of artists, representing a true crossroads of styles, ages, cultures, locations, and backgrounds. Featured artists included:

- Nadia Martinez, Norman photographer
- Salwa Elyazgi, Norman painter
- Sarah Firdaus, Stillwater photographer and ceramics artist
- Ali Soltani, Edmond musician
- Tehmina Cheema, Edmond painter and calligrapher
- Uzma Muzaffar Saleemi, Edmond painter and calligrapher
- Layan Salous, Oklahoma City photographer
- Sister Hughmerdes, Oklahoma City painter
- Yasmeen Muhammad, Spencer painter and textile artist

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Art in the Heartland* attracted over 400 attendees from the Oklahoma Muslim and interfaith communities, and CAIR Oklahoma plans to bring the event to other cities across Oklahoma in the future.

Samer Abdelkader, MSO chapter president said, “Last year this event showcased a great blend of wonderful Oklahoma artists with beautiful Islamic art. *Art in the Heartland* is an important event because it allows Muslims and those of other faiths to experience a perspective of Islam in Oklahoma and the Midwest which is not often seen.”









# Spreading the Legacy



*“Through the ‘Know the Legacy’ campaign we hope more Oklahomans will learn about the beautiful legacy of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and this will act as a catalyst to dispel myths and misunderstandings.”*

- Dr. Amir Khaliq, Board of Directors | CAIR Oklahoma

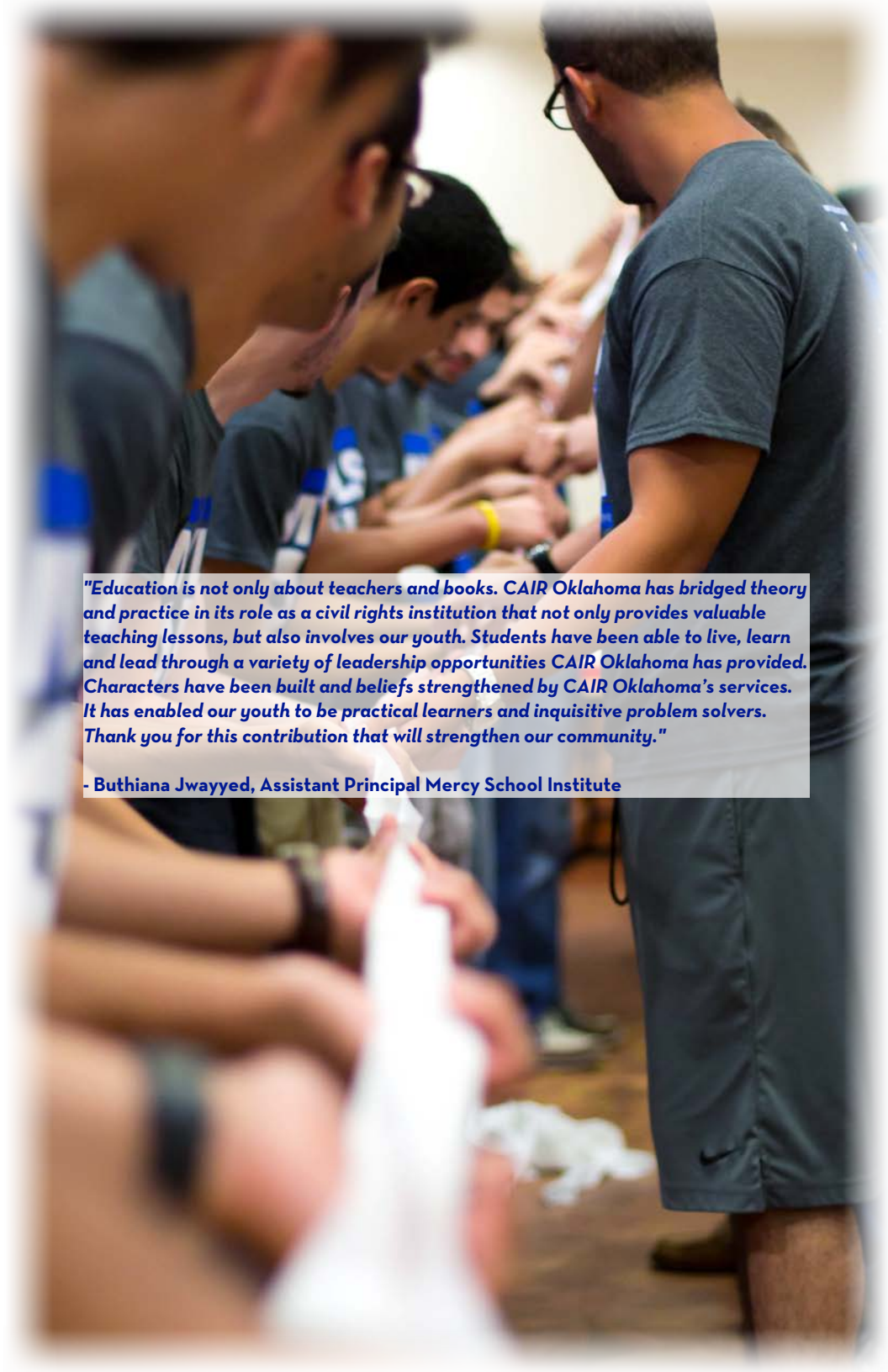
Following the uproar by Muslims worldwide after the release of an appallingly anti-Islamic film was released; CAIR Oklahoma saw the need to quell the divisiveness that had been created by drawing attention to the peaceful and justice-centered principles of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Instead of perpetuating the deconstructive and unethical behavior that had led to innocent lives being taken, CAIR Oklahoma acted quickly in reviving a CAIR National campaign that had proven successful in detailing Prophet Muhammad’s timeless legacy.

On September 19th, 2012, CAIR Oklahoma kicked-off its *Know the Legacy* campaign offering a free educational DVD to any household in Oklahoma that requested one via CAIR Oklahoma’s website or by phone. Within weeks, CAIR Oklahoma had circulated thousands of “Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet” DVD’s around the state in hopes of opening the lines of communication for Oklahomans, of all religious backgrounds, to share in the values and ethics attributed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), but that are so universally promoted by people of all walks of life. “Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet” juxtaposes the entire life of Prophet Muhammad with the lives of modern American Muslims who are enduring many of the same issues the Prophet faced, all while striving to emulate the very characteristics that made him truly effective in his mission of encouraging tolerance and compassion. CAIR Oklahoma not only sought to educate Oklahomans of Prophet Muhammad’s life through the *Know the Legacy* campaign, but also worked to reject the misconceptions of Islam and its Prophet that, regrettably, remain prevalent. The campaign, which is ongoing, has surely improved many Oklahomans’ knowledge of Prophet Muhammad’s inspiring message in an objective and uniting manner.

“We want our fellow Oklahomans to know that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) stood for justice, mercy and compassion,” said Adam Soltani, Executive Director of CAIR Oklahoma, “It is unfortunate that the Prophet Muhammad has been slandered in a video production, however, through our *Know the Legacy* campaign we invite our neighbors to learn more about the legacy of this influential human being.”

CAIR Oklahoma is committed to helping dispel myths and misunderstandings about Islam and Muslims through various educational campaigns. CAIR Oklahoma will continue to work to enhance understanding in the state of Oklahoma by constructing and promoting educational campaigns related to the Quran, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and more.





*"Education is not only about teachers and books. CAIR Oklahoma has bridged theory and practice in its role as a civil rights institution that not only provides valuable teaching lessons, but also involves our youth. Students have been able to live, learn and lead through a variety of leadership opportunities CAIR Oklahoma has provided. Characters have been built and beliefs strengthened by CAIR Oklahoma's services. It has enabled our youth to be practical learners and inquisitive problem solvers. Thank you for this contribution that will strengthen our community."*

**- Buthiana Jwayyed, Assistant Principal Mercy School Institute**

# Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today



***“MYLS (Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium) is the only leadership program of its kind in the Heartland which intertwines an American Muslim identity with our nation’s rich civil rights tradition.”***

- Adam Soltani, Executive Director | CAIR Oklahoma

MYLS (Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium) is a program that CAIR Oklahoma adopted in the Summer of 2009 as a way to train Oklahoma Muslim Youth to become social activists and community leaders. Over the course of 4 years, CAIR Oklahoma has trained over 250 budding youth leaders and community activists through its MYLS programs. Heading into its 5th year in 2013, CAIR Oklahoma has plans to expand the MYLS program to also include a program geared towards middle- and high-school aged students that will prepare them for college, provide guidance on campus activism, and be a venue for career counseling and development.

The core mission of the Oklahoma MYLS program is to:

- Provide Oklahoma Muslim youth with a proactive agenda for positive activism.
- Empower Oklahoma Muslim youth to guide their communities from the margins to the mainstream.
- Foster a healthy Oklahoma Muslim identity that fits comfortably within a pluralistic American society.

MYLS encourages Oklahoma Muslim youth to proactively define themselves in order to combat the negative perceptions of Islam that have become a part of the mainstream discourse. Through a series of workshops, debates, and collaborations, MYLS provides high school seniors and college students with the tools to advance both professionally and spiritually.

Over 40 students from across Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas attended MYLS in 2012, and discussed proactive measures to counter challenges facing the Oklahoma Muslim community. These young individuals participated in workshops and activities that provide them with the tools to make a positive difference in their local communities.

“I discovered that whether I am, or am not the victim of discrimination or bigotry, should not determine whether or not I am part of the solution,” said MYLS participant Ahmad Khattab of Tulsa, OK, “MYLS prepared us to create community responses to community issues.”





November 11, 2010 — November 17, 2010

www.city-sentinel.com

# ...s unprecedented injunction to stop S.C.

...2%) against. Awad said  
...30% who voted no were a  
...orce of encouragement.  
...Also speaking at the press  
...riefing were Chuck Thornton  
(Deputy Director, ACLU-Okla-  
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Islamic Society of Greater  
Oklahoma City -- ISGOC) and  
...holder (Direc-



...including  
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...of a lawsuit  
...Member Awad of the Oklahoma  
...ter, Council on American-  
...Islamic (CAIR-OK) will be  
...after filing suit last week  
...election board certification  
...75%.

"Mainstream Baptists appreciate the work that CAIR Oklahoma does to promote civil and human rights. We count you as one of our strongest allies in the struggle to secure liberty of conscience for all persons and in efforts to preserve separation of religion and government. We admire the courage and restraint you demonstrate when facing intolerance and oppression. We commend you for your commitment to promoting the common good through open discussion, through civil dialogue, and, when necessary, through the due process of law and litigation."

- Bruce Prescott, Executive Director, Mainstream Oklahoma Baptists

0, 2010

PERMANENT; STATE ELECTION BOARD CAN APPEAL

# Issues injunction t Sharia law ban

In a 15-page order, U.S. District Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange continued to keep the restriction out of the Oklahoma Constitution. Her ruling was a victory for an Oklahoma City Muslim leader and complained his constitu-

tional religious rights were in jeopardy.

"While the public has an interest in the will of the voters being carried out ... the Court finds the public has a more profound and long-term interest in up-

Sports: Holland H...  
falls in SPC title ga...

WWW.TULSAHERALD.COM

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 5, 2010

ISLAMIC LAW: A

# Suit filed a

# Opposing Anti-Shariah Laws



*“Shariah law details moral, ethical, social and political codes of conduct for Muslims at an individual and collective level and is an integral part of every aspect of the lives of Oklahoma Muslims.”*

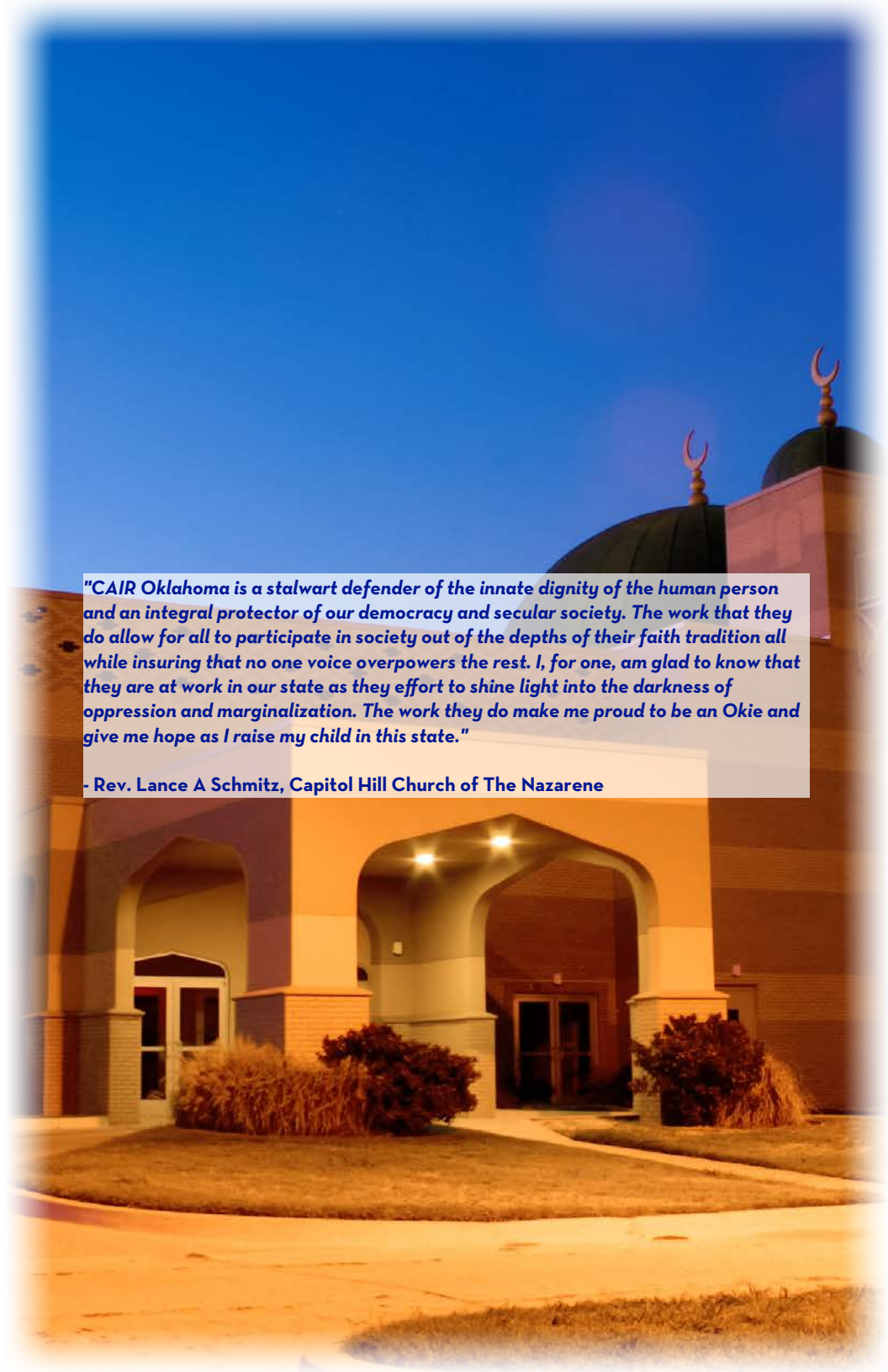
- Shafi Chaudry, Board of Directors | CAIR Oklahoma

In January 2012, an appeals court in Denver, Colorado, upheld the injunction against *Shariah* law ban in Oklahoma courts. CAIR Oklahoma's executive director at the time, Muneer Awad, and CAIR National attorney, Gadeir Abbas, were present in Denver, CO for the ruling. CAIR Oklahoma sued to block State Question 755, approved by 70 percent of Oklahoma voters on November 2, 2010. State Question 755 bars Oklahoma state courts from considering or using *Sharia* law. CAIR Oklahoma and Muneer Awad contended the measure stigmatizes those who adhere to the Islamic faith, limits the results Oklahoma Muslims can obtain from the courts and would prevent Awad's last will and testament from being probated in Oklahoma because his will has references to *Shariah* law. The appellate judges concluded the amendment "would disfavor (only) his religion," in violate of the U.S. Constitution's provision stating, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." This decision is an important reminder that the Constitution is the last line of defense against a rising tide of anti-Muslim bigotry and Islamophobia in our society.

Although the injunction brought against Oklahoma's State Question 755 was a victory for religious freedom in Oklahoma, the fight to protect the religious rights of Oklahoma Muslims is far from over. CAIR Oklahoma, along with partner organizations such as the ACLU of Oklahoma, continues to monitor any possible anti-Islam or anti-Muslim legislation that could infringe on the rights of Oklahoma Muslims to freely practice their faith according to the rights provided forth in the United States Constitution.

After taking over for Muneer Awad as executive director in July 2012, Adam Soltani took over the reigns of the opposition to *anti-Shariah* measures in the state of Oklahoma. "We will not rest until the constitutional rights of Oklahoma Muslims, and all Oklahomans, are upheld," said Adam Soltani, "Our country was founded upon the principles of religious freedom, we owe it to our founding fathers to uphold these ideals."



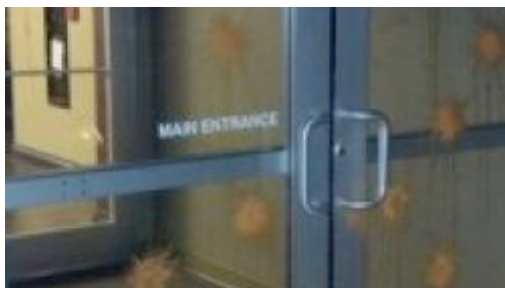


*"CAIR Oklahoma is a stalwart defender of the innate dignity of the human person and an integral protector of our democracy and secular society. The work that they do allow for all to participate in society out of the depths of their faith tradition all while insuring that no one voice overpowers the rest. I, for one, am glad to know that they are at work in our state as they effort to shine light into the darkness of oppression and marginalization. The work they do make me proud to be an Okie and give me hope as I raise my child in this state."*

- Rev. Lance A Schmitz, Capitol Hill Church of The Nazarene



# Protecting Our Houses of Worship



***“Oklahomans of all backgrounds should be concerned when hate crimes perpetrate. An attack on one house of worship is an attack on all houses of worship and we must stand in solidarity in support of safety at our houses of worship.”***

- Adam Soltani, Executive Director | CAIR Oklahoma

On August 12, 2012 at 2:45 AM, vandals pulled into the parking lot of the Grand Mosque of Oklahoma City and fired several rounds of paintballs at the mosque's doors. Imam Imad Enchassi, Imam of the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City, reminded Oklahomans of Islam's peaceful nature by stating, “It is hard to believe that there are still individuals that would commit such an act of hate. As Oklahoma Muslims, we keep our mosque doors open to the public and our arms and hearts are always open to those who want to learn about Islam. We believe that lack of information is what leads to acts such as this one.” CAIR Oklahoma immediately called on state and federal law enforcement authorities to investigate the attack as a potential hate crime.

CAIR Oklahoma Executive Director Adam Soltani emphasized the need for religious tolerance and awareness by noting, “The growing number of these attacks should be of concern to national religious and political leaders who have an important role to play in challenging the rising level of anti-Muslim rhetoric in our society, and particularly Islamophobic rhetoric coming from the right-wing of the political spectrum.” By highlighting the Islamophobic atmosphere that is, unfortunately, still present in our state, Soltani echoed one of CAIR Oklahoma's core values- protecting the freedom of religion for every Oklahoman. As an organization, CAIR Oklahoma is dedicated to not only securing rights for Muslims, but members of all faith communities in Oklahoma. This hate crime served as a reminder that interfaith dialogue must continue, despite adversity, as mutual understanding is key to protecting all of Oklahoma's houses of worship.

Additionally, as a response to this and other incidents around the country, CAIR Oklahoma developed a *Community Safety Guide* to help protect against anti-Muslim bigotry and to protect constitutional rights. By taking the opportunity to develop new literature on the importance of keeping faith communities safe, CAIR Oklahoma's progressive response to the vandalism of an Oklahoma mosque should not be minimized. The *Community Safety Guide* reminds Oklahoma Muslims to build strong relationships with neighbors of each mosque and to hold community meetings in order to discuss issues present in their respective communities.





*"In spite of attacks on minority religious institutions, it is still important for our Country and our Constitution that 'religious freedom' continues being a gift for every citizen, whether Muslim or anyone else. Over all diversity has served this Country and our State of Oklahoma well. CAIR Oklahoma has been one of those who has confronted 'the majority' and not backed down. That helps make my home in Oklahoma a better place to live and I am proud of that."*

**- Marvin Chiles, National Board Member Interfaith Alliance**

# The CONSTITUTION of the United States

We the People  
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence,  
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution

Article I.  
Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be  
vested in one Body, which shall be called the House of Representatives.  
Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

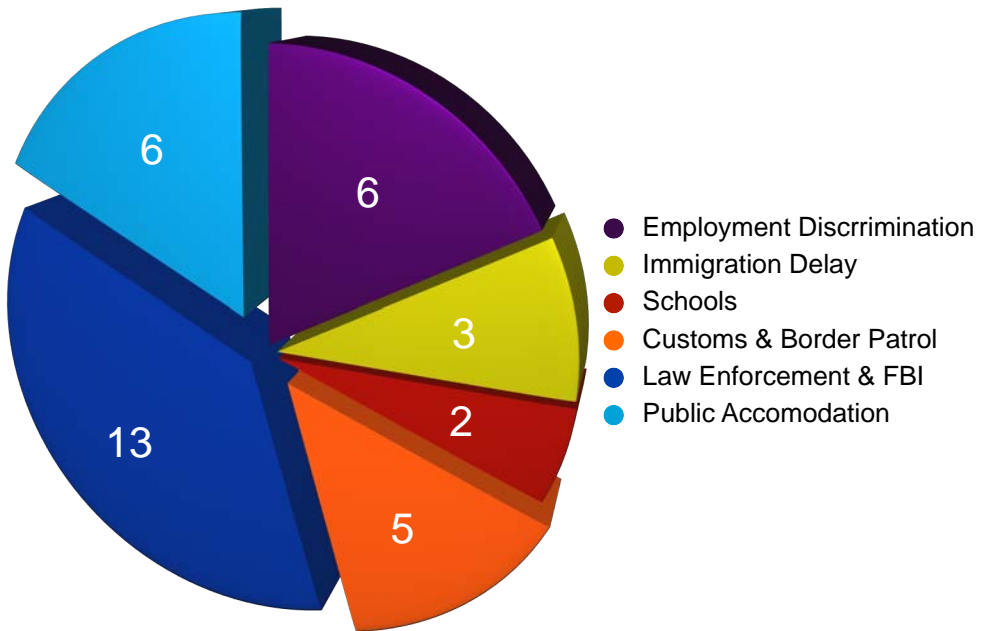
# Upholding Our Constitution



***“CAIR Oklahoma is a civil rights organization committed to defending the Constitutional rights of Oklahoma Muslims by documenting and resolving cases of discrimination, harassment, vandalism, and hate crimes.”***

- Saad Mohammed, Board Chair | CAIR Oklahoma


This past year proved to be a year that demanded CAIR Oklahoma’s full attention on a range of issues that covered the wide civil rights spectrum. Ultimately upholding justice and defeating intolerance are top priorities with CAIR Oklahoma. At its core, our organization is devoted to addressing every case of discrimination, harassment, and vandalism that arises for Muslims in the state of Oklahoma.



Civil Rights Cases  
Opened in 2012:

**35**





*"For at least ten years we have observed and participated in countless community-building activities and news conferences sponsored by CAIR Oklahoma, always impressed by the grace and diplomatic skills of their staff. CAIR Oklahoma succeeds in putting forward the positive face of Muslim Oklahomans involved, like all good citizens, in activities for the betterment of all people."*

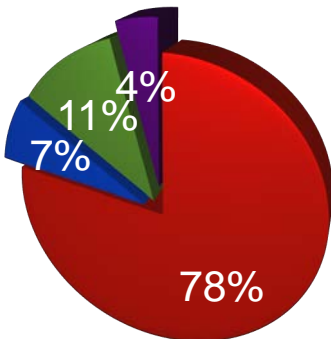
- Nathaniel Batchelder, Director, The Peace House of Oklahoma City



# Budget & Projections

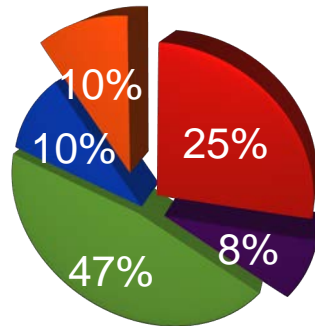
The financial details described below are for the calendar years 2009-2012. CAIR-Oklahoma is a 501 (c) 3 organization that conducts annual financial reviews and independent audits.

<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Difference In Income From Prior Year</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
2009: \$121,091.88	---	2009: \$128,435.07
2010: \$139,265.65	15.0 %	2010: \$113,882.17
2011: \$181,606.05	30.4 %	2011: \$140,787.89
2012: \$186,702.55	2.8%	2012: \$177,160.32



## INCOME SOURCE

- Programs & Events
- General Donations
- Ramadan
- Educational Campaigns



## EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

- Events & Programs
- Employee Benefits
- Payroll Expenses
- Operations & Outreach
- Office Expenses

## 2012 LIST OF EXPENSES

Employee Benefits  
\$ 14,004.99

Payroll Expenses  
\$ 83,569.03


Office Expenses  
\$ 17,334.64

Operations & Outreach  
\$ 17,742.99

Events & Programs  
\$ 44,508.67

TOTAL EXPENSES  
\$ 177,160.32



The background of the image is a stack of various books and a CD-ROM case. The books have different colored covers, including blue, orange, and green. The CD-ROM case in the foreground has a blue cover with a grid of images and the text "A National Portrait" in red. A semi-transparent white box with a blue border is overlaid on the image, containing a quote in blue text.

*"We, at the Respect Diversity Foundation (RDF), have partnered with CAIR Oklahoma since its beginning in OKC in 2006. We've been proud to include CAIR educators on the Respect Diversity Foundation's Speaker's Bureau. While teaching seminars and workshops, participating in intercultural panels and acting as master of ceremonies at several events, CAIR educators have always inspired integrity. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'Justice denied one person is justice denied everyone.' CAIR is an extraordinary advocate for social justice, pluralism and tolerance. We have worked with CAIR on LGBT issues, immigration and civil liberties. We look forward to a long, productive partnership."*

**- Author Michael Korenblit, President Respect Diversity Foundation**

# *Our Vision & Mission*

**CAIR Oklahoma's VISION** is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding in the state of Oklahoma.

**CAIR Oklahoma's MISSION** is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower Oklahoma Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

## **CAIR Oklahoma's 10 CORE VALUES**

- 1** CAIR Oklahoma supports free enterprise, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression.
- 2** CAIR Oklahoma is committed to protecting the civil rights of all Oklahomans, regardless of faith.
- 3** CAIR Oklahoma supports domestic policies that promote civil rights, diversity, and freedom of religion.
- 4** CAIR Oklahoma opposes domestic policies that limit civil rights, permit racial, ethnic, or religious profiling, infringe on due process, or that prevent Muslims and others from participating fully in American civic life.
- 5** CAIR Oklahoma is a natural ally of groups, religious or secular, that advocate justice and human rights in America and around the world.
- 6** CAIR Oklahoma supports foreign policies that help create free and equitable trade, encourage human rights and promote representative government based on socio-economic justice.
- 7** CAIR Oklahoma believes the active practice of Islam strengthens the social and religious fabric of our state and nation.
- 8** CAIR Oklahoma condemns all acts of violence against civilians by any individual, group or state.
- 9** CAIR Oklahoma advocates dialogue between faith communities both in Oklahoma and throughout the nation.
- 10** CAIR Oklahoma supports equal and complementary rights and responsibilities for men and women.





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