

# \$1.5B ONG, OG&E, PSO charges already collected challenged at OK Supreme Court

Reps. Tom Gann (R-Inola), Kevin West (R-Moore), and Rick West (R-Heavener) filed their seventh appeal brief at the Oklahoma Supreme Court on Thursday, March 19. It asks the court to overturn Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) orders approving some \$1.5 billion of 2023 fuel and purchased power costs incurred by monopoly public utilities, including \$530 million for ONG, \$550 million for PSO, and \$763 million for OG&E.

This brings the total utility customer payments these state representatives have officially challenged to \$475 million in rate increases, \$3.2 billion in 2021 winter storm bonds, and \$1.5 billion in fuel charges. They say there is more to come.

This brief accuses the OCC of violating state laws about audits and prudence reviews, and of violating ratepayers' due process rights by failing to give customers notice about these cases and by permitting OCC Commissioner Todd Hiatt to participate.

ONG, OG&E, and PSO were represented in these cases by attorneys who hosted a 2023 party where Hiatt allegedly sexually harassed two female OCC employees and drove home drunk. ONG also was represented by an attorney whom the brief describes as "an outcry witness" to Hiatt's alleged sexual assault of a ONE Gas employee at a June 2024 conference in Minnesota. The Representatives argue that State Ethics Rules and the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibit Hiatt from participating in OCC cases involving victims/witnesses of his alleged criminal conduct.

Charges were never filed, and the Ethics Commission dismissed a complaint against Hiatt in May 2025. Thursday's brief asks the Supreme Court to review the Ethics Commission's legal determinations in that case. A November 2024 Attorney General Opinion (2024 OK AG 17) prevented the Council on Judicial Complaints from



investigating Hiatt for the alleged Code of Judicial Conduct violations. The state representatives have challenged that too, citing specific "evidence of bias" in the proceedings leading to the appealed orders.

"Fuel adjustment clause charges are passed through directly onto customers' bills, so the utilities have already collected this money from us," said Gann, who is a customer of ONG, OG&E, and PSO. "State law requires audits of the utilities' fuel charges every year. It also requires the OCC to make sure those costs were fair, just, reasonable, and prudent before approving them. These laws exist to protect ratepayers, but the OCC doesn't seem to care whether the people conducting these audits and prudence reviews are qualified or not."

A December 2025 brief alleged the OCC had allowed a Public Utility Division (PUD) employee, believed to have dropped out of college as a sophomore, to perform required audits of utility companies collectively worth more than a

billion dollars. The employee also testified that all the utility charges were "prudently incurred" and should be approved by the OCC. The lawmakers say, "sadly, they were."

In an answer brief filed in January, the state attorney general, who represents ratepayers in utility cases at the commission but has instead defended all the challenged OCC orders, also defended the PUD employee. The AG's brief argued that: "Neither the Commission rules nor Oklahoma statutes [specify] who PUD must employ as part of their Staff." The attorney general also did not object when the alleged "college dropout" testified again in February 2026 about the prudence of another \$600 million of PSO's 2024 fuel charges he claimed to have audited.

"Not everyone has to graduate from college," Rick West said. "But state employees being paid with taxpayer dollars have to be qualified for the jobs they're hired for. This situation is not only an assault on the household budgets

of utility customers; it is an insult to thousands of qualified public servants who are legitimately earning their paychecks."

This latest brief asks the Court to overturn the OCC's approval orders and require new, lawful fuel audits and prudence reviews by outside, independent auditors and experts, instead of the OCC's Public Utility Division (PUD) staff.

"There are serious concerns about how the Corporation Commission is operating," Kevin West said.

Thursday's brief also asserts that a Supreme Court opinion cited by the utilities to argue that OCC decisions are entitled to a "presumption of correctness" from the court is actually based on language in the Oklahoma Constitution that was removed by amendment in 1941. The representatives have already accused Hiatt's defenders of relying on old Supreme Court opinions issued before Ethics Rule 4.7 (prohibiting conflicts of interest by state officers) was approved in 2014.

"This could be another example of the Court's need to explicitly recognize that the law upon which previous Court decisions were based has changed," the brief says.

Thursday's brief is the last in the 2023 fuel cases appeal, meaning a decision by the court could come at any time. The representatives say they also plan to challenge the OCC's fuel approval orders for 2021 and 2022 in their appeals of the agency's 2024 fuel approval orders, two of which were filed the first week in December. The next cases are worth another \$6.5 billion, they say.

The full Reply Brief for the combined 2023 fuel cases appeal can be read online at [oscn.net/dockets/GetDocument.aspx?ct=appellate&bc=1064717532&cn=CU-122991&fmt=pdf](https://oscn.net/dockets/GetDocument.aspx?ct=appellate&bc=1064717532&cn=CU-122991&fmt=pdf). The progress of all the appeals can be followed on the Oklahoma Supreme Court website.

## Ottawa County Court Report

### Marriages

Timothy D. Adams and Zoe Elizabeth Parish  
 Jeffery Scott Speir and Julia Suzanne Bates  
 Dillion Kade Wood and Leanna Renee Bozarth  
 Andrew Thomas Cooper and Lisa Autumn Shiann Creech  
 Dakota James Elliston and Megan Jay McGuire  
 Brandon Michael Sanders and Ashley Nicole Horick  
 Frank Owens Jr. and Sheila Renee Muhammed

### Divorces

Matthew Scott Keepers vs. Rebekah A. Keepers  
 Richard R. McClelland vs. Haylee K. McClelland

### Protective Orders

Christopher Paul Butterfly vs. Isaiah Elesio Butterfly  
 Angela C. Irons vs. Steven E. Weeks

Joanne Mancusi vs. Jolynda M. Myers

### Misdemeanors

State of Oklahoma vs. Jessie L. Gonzales for failure to maintain insurance or security  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Makynzi M. Jones for failure to maintain insurance or security  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Nicole A. Jones for driving without a valid driver's license  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Dillion Matthew Williams Pittman for failure to maintain insurance or security  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Benster Sain for public intoxication  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Meigan Stepheni Six for failure to maintain insurance or security  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Michael A. Spieth for failure to maintain insurance or security

State of Oklahoma vs. Thomas Robert Williams for failure to maintain insurance or security  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Chad Donovan Willis for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

### Felonies

State of Oklahoma vs. Joshua Michael Brumley for grand larceny  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Alecia Anne Freeman for distribution of controlled dangerous substance – including possession with intent to distribute  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Darel Lee Skelton for forgery in the second degree  
 State of Oklahoma vs. Nathan Burke White for distribution of controlled dangerous substance – including possession with intent to distribute

## LEGALS

### IN THE COURT OF INDIAN OFFENSES MIAMI AGENCY

In Re the Petition for Name Change of: COURTNEY MADELON ROSS, Petitioner.

### Case No. CIV-26-01 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Take notice that the Petitioner, Courtney Madelon Ross, has petitioned to change the name of the minor child, R.L.R.-J., to R.L.R. A hearing on said petition is set for April 16, 2026, at 9:30

a.m. on the 26th day of February 2026, before the Honorable Judge Reavis, a Judge of the CFR Court of the Indian Offenses for the Miami Agency, located at 10 South Treaty Rd, Miami, Oklahoma, 74354. Should you know of any reason why this change of name should not be allowed, you must file a written protest in the above-styled and numbered cause prior to the above date with the Clerk of this Court.

Should you fail to do so, the petition for change of name will be granted as prayed.

CFR COURT OF INDIAN OFFENSES COURT CLERK

By: **Kathy Greenhaw**

(Published in the Miami News Record March 24, 2026) LPXLP

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARIA CHRISTINE NICHOLS, DECEASED.

### Case No. PB-2026-3 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of Maria Christine Nichols, Deceased:

All creditors having claims against Maria Christine Nichols, Deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to Marcello Nichols, Personal Representative, at the law offices of J. Wayne Kennon, 211 East Central, Miami, Oklahoma 74354, addressed to J. Wayne Kennon, attorney for Marcello Nichols, on or before the following presentment date: May 8, 2026, or the same will be forever barred.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Marcello Nichols

Marcello Nichols, Personal Representative

Approved as to form: /s/ J. Wayne Kennon J. Wayne Kennon OBA #18950 J. Wayne Kennon Law Office 211 East Central P. O. Box 1460 Miami, Oklahoma 74354 Telephone (918) 542-9191 Fax (918) 542-9192 Attorney for Personal Representative

(Published in the Miami News Record March 10, 17, and 24, 2026) LPXLP

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