

# COURT DOG HANDLER RECEIVES SPECIAL AWARD FOR SERVICE

LEON MULLIS AND HIS DOG, BOO, ARE HONORED



***Boo, being held by Leon's wife, Martha Larimore, and Leon (center) are pictured with DA Steve Kunzweiler, with whom Leon and Boo worked their first case in 2010.***

The Tulsa County Bar Association has recognized the special contributions made by Certified Court Dog Handler, Leon Mullis, and his dog, Boo, by awarding him the honor of Outstanding Dedication to the Court Dog Program.

Mr. Mullis began his career as a court dog handler in 2010 when he first brought his little white dog, Boo, to accompany a child victim who had to give especially harrowing testimony in a jury trial. The child gently petted Boo throughout her testimony and Mr. Mullis could tell instantly that it was having a gentle and calming effect on the child. From that moment on, he felt compelled to dedicate his time and his dog to helping children get through the difficult task of testifying.

That very first jury trial in 2010 is the first known time that a therapy dog had been allowed in an Oklahoma courtroom. Since then, Mr. Mullis and Boo have been involved in over 70 court cases, giving hundreds of hours of volunteer time toward helping children through the court process.

**“Being a court dog handler is the most important activity in my life right now. Whenever you need me and Boo, we will be there.”**

**--Leon Mullis**