



Valerie Couch is the Dean of Oklahoma City University School of Law and first woman to hold this position.

For 13 years, she served as a federal magistrate judge in the Western District of Oklahoma. During her years on the bench, she was actively involved at Oklahoma City University School of Law. Since 2000, she has been a familiar face on campus as an adjunct faculty member and frequent lecturer. She has also been engaged in the law school's Judicial Externship Program providing opportunities for students to work, under her tutelage, at the U.S. District Court.

Prior to her service on the bench, she worked for 16 years in private practice as a trial attorney with the Oklahoma City firm of Hartzog Conger & Cason.

Dean Couch earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of California at Los Angeles, Master of Arts in English Literature from the University of Oklahoma and Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1983, graduating Order of the Coif.

She currently serves as an elected member of the national board of trustees of the American Inns of Court and is a past president of the William J. Holloway, Jr. American Inn of Court. In 2003, she was elected president of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. She is an Oklahoma Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and served as President of the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Federal Bar Association from 2009-2010. She has also served on the editorial board of the Federal Courts Law Review for several years.

