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TERRAL TELEPHONE CO. v. OKLAHOMA STATE BD. OF EQUALIZATION

2023 OK 51

Case Number: <u>120943</u> Decided: 05/02/2023

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Cite as: 2023 OK 51, __ P.3d __

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TERRAL TELEPHONE COMPANY, Appellant/Complainant,
v.
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, Appellee/Respondent.

APPEAL FROM COURT OF TAX REVIEW; TOM L. NEWBY, CHIEF JUDGE, DONNA L. DIRICKSON, CHRISTINE LARSON, JUDGES

¶0 The Respondent, Oklahoma State Board of Equalization, assessed the ad valorem tax concerning the property of the Complainant, Terral Telephone Company. The Complainant protested the assessment. The Respondent moved for dismissal alleging the protest was non-compliant and untimely. The Court of Tax Review agreed and ruled that the protest did not comply with the statutes and rules necessary to invoke its jurisdiction. The Complainant appealed the ruling to this Court and we retained the matter. We affirm the ruling of the Court of Tax Review.

MOTION TO RETAIN PREVIOUSLY GRANTED; COURT OF TAX REVIEW AFFIRMED

William K. Elias, Wyatt D. Swinford, Jay W. Dobson, and Brittany N. Dowd, ELIAS, BOOKS, BROWN & NELSON, P.C., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for Appellant/Complainant

Christy D. Keen, Assistant General Counsel, OKLAHOMA TAX COMMISSION, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for Respondent/Appellee

COMBS, J.:

FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

¶1 On June 17, 2022, the Appellee/Respondent, Oklahoma State Board of Equalization (OSBE), mailed the Appellant/Complainant, Terral Telephone Company (TTC), a notice of ad valorem tax assessment which was dated June 16, 2022. This notice is a statutory requirement pursuant to 68 O.S. 2021, § 2881(A) and is required to be mailed within one (1) working day from the date it is prepared. Section 2881(A) also requires that the notice clearly mark the date that it was prepared. It provides that a taxpayer "shall have twenty (20) calendar days from the date of the notice in which to file" a written complaint, i.e., the complaint must be filed within twenty days from the date of the notice's preparation date as indicated on the notice. The notice also informed the taxpayer that it was made in accordance with § 2881, Rules of the

Court of Tax Review (RCTR), "68 O.S. Ch. 1, Art. 28, App." and that "Rule 11 of the rules of the Court of Tax Review provides the format for the complaint." The notice's preparation date was listed on the notice as June 16, 2022. Therefore, the last day to file a written complaint was July 6, 2022, which is twenty (20) days from that date.

¶2 Rule 2 (RCTR) provides that the time for filing a complaint pursuant to § 2881 is jurisdictional and may not be waived or otherwise extended. Rule 3 (A)(RCTR) provides strict compliance requirements for the contents of the complaint. It requires the complaint to comply with Rule 11 (RCTR), Form No. 1, it must state the year of the ad valorem assessment to be reviewed, it must attach a properly completed form prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC), it must specify the counties where the property is located, it must be filed within thirty (30) days of the notice of assessment [rather than twenty (20) days], it must have an attached copy of the notice, and it shall specify the amount of the assessed valuation protested.

¶3 Terral Telephone Company is a corporation. On July 7, 2022, the president, Chad Segress, of TTC mailed by certified mail a Form OTC 989 (Notice of Protest to the State Board of Equalization and the Oklahoma Tax Commission of Filing in Court of Tax Review) to the Court of Tax Review to protest the valuation assessment. Mr. Segress is not an attorney. The Court Clerk of the Court of Tax Review stamped the Form OTC 989 as filed on July 11, 2022. No complaint, as required by both statute and rules, or any other required documents were filed. Two days later, July 13, 2022, this Court issued an order informing Mr. Segress that he failed to file a complaint as required by Rules 3 and 11 (RCTR), and failed to state the counties in which the property at issue is located, as required by Rule 3 (RCTR). The order directed him to file a complaint in compliance with Rule 11(RCTR), Form No. 1 by July 22, 2022. On July 22, 2022, TTC, through its attorney, filed a First Amended Complaint to Review 2022 Ad Valorem Tax Assessment with the Court Clerk of the Court of Tax Review. This so-called amended complaint appears to comply with the content requirements of § 2881 and Rules 3 and 11(RCTR).

¶4 On August 9, 2022, the OSBE moved to dismiss these proceedings due to TTC's failure to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. The grounds alleged for dismissal were that TTC's July 11, 2022 filing of Form OTC 989 was not a complaint but was instead only a form that needed to be attached to a complaint, was untimely because it was not filed within twenty (20) days from the date of preparation indicated on the notice of assessment and did not meet the other strict compliance content requirements of Rule 3(A)(4)(RCTR) or the requirements of § 2881 and Rule 11(RCTR). Therefore, pursuant to Rule 2(RCTR), a complaint had not been timely filed and the Court of Tax Review lacked jurisdiction. After reviewing the motion, TTC's response and OSBE's reply, the Court of Tax Review granted the motion to dismiss. The Court's November 23, 2022 Order dismissed the protest with prejudice for lack of jurisdiction. The Court held that § 2881 requires the complainant to file a written complaint with the Court Clerk of the Court of Tax Review within twenty (20) days from the date of the notice of assessment. Rule 2 (RCTR) makes the timely filing of the complaint a jurisdictional requirement. Mr. Segress is not an attorney and he filed only a Form OTC 989 on July 11, 2022. The Form OTC 989 is required to be attached to the complaint. Further, the complaint is to be in the required form as provided in Rule 11(RCTR), Form No. 1 and must strictly comply with the provisions of Rule 3(A)(4)(RCTR). The Court held the July 11, 2022 Form OTC 989 is null and void because: 1) it was not signed by an attorney; 2) it was filed more than twenty (20) days after the notice of assessment; and, 3) it did not comply with Rule 11(RCTR), Form No. 1. It concluded that it lacked jurisdiction to hear the matter because of TTC's failure to file a complaint in proper form and in a timely manner (Rule 3(A)(4)(RCTR) and § 2881). The Order also held that the July 13, 2022, Order of this Court, directing TTC to file a complaint in the proper form, did not determine the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review.

¶5 On December 21, 2022, TTC filed a petition in error in this Court. It also moved for this Court to treat the matter as an accelerated appeal and retain the matter for this Court's review. Both were granted.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

¶6 The subject of this appeal is OSBE's motion for entry of order of dismissal which was granted by the Court of Tax Review. The purpose of a motion to dismiss is to test the law that governs the claim in litigation rather than to examine the underlying facts of that claim. Samson Resources Co. v. Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent, 2012 OK 68, ¶10, 281 P.3d 1278, 1281 (citation omitted). Whether a claim should have been dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction is a question of law this Court reviews de novo. Id.

¶7 The issues before us are one of law, i.e., whether the Court of Tax Review has subject matter jurisdiction to hear TTC's protest of the ad valorem tax assessment. TTC claims it complied with relevant rules and statutes pertaining to the protest. However, the facts underlying its alleged compliance are not at issue. When TTC mailed/filed its first attempt at a protest and its later amended complaint are not disputed. The question is whether the actions of TTC in attempting to file a protest satisfied the legal requirements to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. We hold, it did not.

¶8 TTC asserts that the Court of Tax Review failed to interpret numerous ambiguities in the law in its favor. They had previously cited *McGannon v. State*, 1912 OK 384, 124 P. 1063, 1067 to support their assertion that any ambiguity in tax law provisions must be construed most strongly against the state and in favor of the taxpayer. We recently presented clarity to this construction of tax statutes. In *Assessments for Tax Year 2012 of Certain Properties Owned by Throneberry v. Wright*, 2021 OK 7, ¶¶ 18-20, 481 P.3d 883, 893, we held such construction was not applicable to an asserted ambiguity in 68 O.S. § 2884. We explained "[t]he rule means that the provisions of statutes levying taxes will not be extended by implication beyond the clear import of the language used." *Id.* ¶19, 481 P.3d at 893 (footnote omitted). We noted the § 2884 controversy concerned an interpretation of the term "interest" in the statute and did not involve the imposition of a tax by implication. *Id.* Secondly, doubts must arise from ambiguous, conflicting, or uncertain statutory language in the tax law itself. *Id.* ¶20. The tax statute at issue contained no ambiguity, uncertainty, or internal conflict. *Id.*

¶9 TTC claims it substantially complied with the filing requirements when it mailed Form OTC 989 to the Court Clerk of the Court of Tax Review on July 7, 2022. TTC argues the document was on a form prescribed by the OTC and it substantially complied with § 2881 as required by Rule 3(B)(RCTR). TTC suggests two ways the filing of the form was timely: 1) it filed Form OTC 989 within thirty (30) days of the notice of assessment as required, at that time, by Rule 3(A)(RCTR), or 2) the Form OTC 989 was timely filed within twenty (20) days of the mailing of the notice of assessment pursuant to § 2881(B). These assertions reflect TTC's alleged ambiguities in the provisions of § 2881 and Rule 3(RCTR). All of the alleged ambiguities relate to the required procedure necessary to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review; none involve an ambiguity related to substantive provisions imposing an ad valorem tax assessment, which is the subject of this protest, or to any provision that ambiguously imposes a tax by implication.

¶10 First, we will address the required contents that must be filed in order to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. Section 2881 and Rule 3(RCTR) require the filing of a written complaint and Rule 2(RCTR) makes the filing of a complaint jurisdictional. The Form OTC 989 is only a notice of protest and it specifically refers to 68 O.S. § 2881. TTC mailed the notice of protest on July 7, 2022 but did not include a complaint. Rule 11(RCTR), Form No. 1 provides the form and content of the complaint. Rule 3(A)(4) (RCTR), (amnd. by Order of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in *In re: Amendments to Rules for the Oklahoma Court of Tax Review*, 1997 OK 85) further provides the required content of the complaint:

A. Strict Compliance. Complaints and notices of intent to appeal shall be in strict compliance with the following:

. . . .

4. Proceeding pursuant to § 2881: A complaint filed with the Court of Tax Review pursuant to 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881 (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997), must comply with Rule 11 Form No. 1. The Complaint must state the year of the ad valorem assessment to be reviewed. The Complaint must have attached as Exhibit A the properly completed form prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881(A), (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997). The Complaint must specify the counties where the property is located. The Complaint must be filed within thirty (30) days of the notice of assessment, and the Complaint must have attached as Exhibit B a copy of the notice. 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881(A), (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997). The Complaint shall specify the amount of the assessed valuation protested. Id.

Rule 2(RCTR) is clear that the timeliness for filing a "complaint" cannot be waived or otherwise extended. TTC argues that Rule 3(B)(RCTR) only requires it to substantially comply with title 68 and its filing of Form OTC 989 amounts to substantial compliance. Subsection B of Rule 3 provides:

B. Substantial Compliance. Complaints, protests, and notices of intent to appeal shall be in substantial compliance with the applicable provisions of Title 68 authorizing the filing thereof.

Both § 2881 and Subsection A of Rule 3(RCTR) require a complaint be filed. Although subsection B requires substantial compliance with the applicable provisions of title 68, subsection A requires "strict compliance" for the content of the complaint. The Form OTC 989, for instance, does not provide the required information concerning the counties and congressional districts where the property is located. This information is required on Rule 11(RCTR), Form No. 1 and Rule 3(A)(4)(RCTR) states that the complaint "must comply with Rule 11 Form No. 1." There is no way the filing of Form OTC 989 alone amounted to substantial compliance with these requirements in order to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. "It is axiomatic, that in most instances, ignorance of the law is no excuse, and every person is presumed to know the law." *Estes v. ConocoPhillips Co.*, 2008 OK 21, ¶22, 184 P.3d 518, 526.

¶11 The June 16, 2022 notice of assessment letter which was mailed to TTC on June 17, 2022, specifically referenced <u>68</u> O.S. § <u>2881</u>, the Rules of the Court of Tax Review, "68 O.S. Ch. 1, Art. 28, App.," and states the format of the complaint is found in Rule 11(RCTR). In addition, Form OTC 989 states that to be timely filed, the Court of Tax Review must be in receipt of the notice of protest on or before twenty (20) days from the "date listed" on the notice. Subsection A of Section 2881 provides:

The notice, which shall clearly be marked with the date upon which it was prepared, shall be mailed within one (1) working day of such date. The taxpayer shall have twenty (20) calendar days from the date of the notice in which to file, with the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review, a written complaint on a form prescribed by the Tax Commission

Although the OTC provides the Form OTC 989 and does not provide the written complaint form, the notice of assessment letter clearly indicates that the format of the complaint is in Rule 11(RCTR) and gives a citation where to find the rules. TTC asserts that the language "the taxpayer shall have twenty (20) days from the date of the notice" in the second sentence quoted above is ambiguous because it could be interpreted to mean a taxpayer has twenty (20) days from the date of mailing of the notice of assessment to file its protest. It further believes this is apparent when reading subsection B of § 2881 which provides:

B. If the taxpayer fails to file a written complaint within the twenty-day period provided for in this section, then the assessed valuation stated in the notice, without further action of the State Board of Equalization, shall become final and absolute at the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date the notice is mailed to the taxpayer.

However, there is no ambiguity here. Subsection B states if the tax payer fails to file a written complaint as provided in this section (not subsection), then the assessed valuation shall become final at the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date the notice of assessment was mailed to the taxpayer. The "date the notice is mailed" language in subsection B only refers to when the assessed valuation becomes final. The first part of the sentence is referring to the time period to file a written complaint which is found in subsection A. When reading the two quoted sentences together in subsection A it is clear that the written complaint must be filed within twenty (20) days of the date the notice was prepared which is to be "clearly . . . marked" on the notice of assessment. The first quoted sentence in subsection A also requires the notice of assessment to be mailed within one (1) day of the date it was prepared. Therefore, TTC's assertion that the time period ran from either the date the notice of assessment was mailed (June 17, 2022) or the date of his receipt of the notice (June 22, 2022) are without merit. TTC filed a Form OTC 989 on July 7, 2022, which alone, as mentioned, did not comply with the necessary requirements of a complaint. July 6, 2022, was the last day that TTC could file its complaint. TTC was one day late in filing but what it filed was not the required complaint necessary to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. ⁹

¶12 TTC next argues that the applicable version of Rule 3(RCTR) provided that a taxpayer had thirty (30) days to file a complaint and § 2881 provides a twenty (20) day period to file a complaint which causes an ambiguity that should be resolved in a taxpayer's favor. As in *Assessments for Tax Year 2012 of Certain Properties Owned by Throneberry v. Wright*, 2021 OK 7, 481 P.3d 883, the asserted ambiguity here does not concern an ambiguity which might impose a tax by implication. The alleged ambiguity concerns a procedural provision necessary to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. The provisions, however, are irreconcilably in conflict with one another. When a rule irreconcilably conflicts with a statute the provisions of the statute shall prevail. *Ark. La. Gas Co. v. Travis*, 1984 OK 33, ¶7, 682 P.2d 225, 227; *Cole v. State ex. rel. Dept. of Public Safety*, 2020 OK 67, ¶5, 473 P.3d 467, 475 (Gurich, C.J. dissenting)("When a rule or regulation conflicts with a

statutory enactment, the statute prevails."). Therefore, the statutory twenty (20) day period from the date of the preparation of the notice of assessment, which is required to be clearly listed on the notice of assessment, is the date from which the period to file a complaint commences and TTC failed to comply with this jurisdictional requirement. In other words, the complainant has twenty (20) days from the date listed on the notice of assessment to file its complaint. TTC's argument that it complied with the July 13, 2022 Order of this Court and filed a proper amended complaint on July 22, 2022, does not extend the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. Again, TTC argues that the first amended complaint was filed within thirty (30) days of the date it received (June 22, 2022) the notice of assessment. Neither the thirty (30) day period in the relevant version of Rule 3(RCTR) nor the date of receipt of a notice of assessment is applicable in determining the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review. Even if the thirty (30) day period was found to be applicable, TTC's first amended complaint would have to have been filed within thirty (30) days from the date listed on the notice of assessment in order to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review and July 22, 2022 would have been more than thirty days from that date. The July 13, 2022 Order pointed out the deficiencies in TTC's first filing. It did not attempt to rule on whether the Court of Tax Review had jurisdiction of the matter nor could it extend the filing period under the provisions of Rule 2(RCTR).

CONCLUSION

¶13 Taxpayer, TTC, attempted to protest an ad valorem tax assessment made by the OSBE. It made two attempts to comply with the statute and rules to file a complaint. Both were untimely and failed to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review.

MOTION TO RETAIN PREVIOUSLY GRANTED; COURT OF TAX REVIEW AFFIRMED

Kane, C.J., Rowe, V.C.J., Winchester, Edmondson, Combs, and Darby, JJ. -- concur;

Kauger, J. -- concur in part, dissent in part;

Gurich (by separate writing) and Kuehn, JJ., - dissent.

GURICH, J., with whom Kuehn, J., joins, dissenting.

¶1 In this case, Terral Telephone Co. (TTC) filed a protest of an ad valorem tax levied by the Oklahoma State Board of Equalization (OSBE). At every step of the process, TTC's protest was thwarted by contradictory language contained in the Rules of the Court of Tax Review (Rules) and statutes, letters from the Oklahoma Tax Commission purporting to give more time to protest the tax, and even an order of this Court. The totality of the circumstances presented in this case infringe upon TTC's right to due process. For this reason, I respectfully dissent from the majority opinion and would allow TTC's protest to proceed in the Court of Tax Review.

¶2 On June 22, 2022, TTC received a letter from the OSBE, dated June 16, 2022, notifying TTC of the ad valorem tax levied upon TTC's Oklahoma property for the year 2022. On June 24, 2022, TTC received a letter from the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC), dated June 21, 2022, which included the valuation report (the printout of the company's original cost and assessed values) for TTC's property. The letter stated that TTC had until Thursday, July 7, 2022, to report any discrepancies.

¶3 On July 6, 2022, TTC prepared, dated, and signed a "Notice of Protest to the State Board of Equalization and the OTC of Filing in Court of Tax Review," using OTC Form 989. On July 7, 2022, TTC mailed the Form 989, to the Clerk of the Supreme Court as Clerk of the Court of Tax Review. 2 On July 13, 2022, the Supreme Court entered an order noting TTC's filing of Form 989, but directed TTC to file a complaint in compliance with Rule 11, Form No. 1 of the Rules by July 22, 2022. TTC filed its first amended complaint in compliance with the Court's order on July 22, 2022. On August 9, 2022, OSBE filed a

motion to dismiss alleging that TTC was untimely in its filing. TTC submitted its response to OSBE's motion to dismiss on August 29, 2022. On November 28, 2022, the Court of Tax Review granted OSBE's motion to dismiss, and TTC filed its Petition in Error with this Court on December 21, 2022.

¶4 The United States Supreme Court held "where an action affects a person's interest in life, liberty or property such person is entitled to notice reasonably calculated, under all the circumstances, to be apprised of the pendency of the action and afforded an opportunity to present objections." *Luster v. Bank of Chelsea*, 1986 OK 74, 730 P.2d 506, 509 (citing *Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank &Trust Co.*, 339 U.S. 306, 314). For the purposes of due process, corporations are persons. *See First Nat. Bank of Boston v. Bellotti*, 435 U.S. 765, 780 n.15 ("It has been settled for almost a century that corporations are persons within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment."). Importantly, due process is not necessarily satisfied by strict adherence to statutorily prescribed procedures, rather, "[i]t is the totality of the circumstances and conditions of each individual case that determines if the constitutional requirements of due process are satisfied." *Luster*, 1986 OK 74, 730 P.2d at 509. This Court has recognized that the constitutional guarantee of due process of law applies to administrative as well as judicial proceedings, and it is this Court's constitutional responsibility to ensure that the statutory regime governing appealable administrative orders is consistent with the state's standards of due process. *Larry Jones Intern. Ministries Inc., v. Okla. Co. Bd. of Equalization*, 1997 OK 125, ¶ 9, 946 P.2d 669, 671.

¶5 In both its Petition in Error and its Response to Respondent's Motion for Entry of Order of Dismissal before the trial court below, TTC asserts that Title 68 and the Rules of the Court of Tax Review conflict because they have different filing deadlines and substantive requirements. Title 68, Section 2881 states, in pertinent part:

A. The secretary of the State Board of Equalization shall notify all railroads, air carriers and public service corporations of the ad valorem tax assessments rendered by the State Board, including the valuation, assessment ratio and total amount of assessment. The notice, which shall clearly be marked with the date upon which it was prepared, shall be mailed within one (1) working day of such date. The taxpayer **shall have twenty (20) calendar days from the date of the notice in which to file**, with the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review, **a written complaint on a form prescribed by the Tax Commission**, specifying grievances with the pertinent facts in relation thereto in ordinary and concise language, without repetition, and in such manner as to enable a person of common understanding to know what is intended. The complaint shall include the amount of Oklahoma assessed valuation protested and the grounds for the protest. The taxpayer shall be required to send a copy of the complaint to the Tax Commission.

B. If the taxpayer fails to file a written complaint within the twenty-day period provided for in this section, then the assessed valuation stated in the notice, without further action of the State Board of Equalization, shall become final and absolute at the expiration of twenty (20) days **from the date the notice is mailed to the taxpayer.**

68 O.S.2011, § 2881(A)--(B) (emphasis added).

¶6 On its face, this statute is internally inconsistent. The Taxpayer has 20 days from the date of the notice to file a complaint on the Tax Commission form, but the assessed valuation becomes final 20 days from the date the notice is mailed to the taxpayer. In this case, the OSBE has no record of the date of mailing. There is no certificate of mailing on the letter indicating that it was actually sent in compliance with 68 O.S.2011, § 2881(A), which requires such notices to be mailed within one day of issuance.

¶7 Moreover, this statute is directly in conflict with Rule 3 of the Court of Tax Review, in effect at the time of this appeal, which states:

- A. **Strict Compliance**. Complaints and notices of intent to appeal shall be in strict compliance with the following:
- 1. An original and four copies of all pleadings, complaints, protests, notices of intent to appeal, responses and other filings shall be prepared on 8 1/2 " x 11" paper only.
- 2. In all proceedings the complaint, notice, or protest must state the county in which the property which is the subject of the proceeding is located.
- 3. In all proceedings where the Oklahoma Tax Commission is required by statute to prescribe the form for filing a complaint or notice with the Court of Tax Review a completed copy of the form shall be attached to the complaint or notice filed with the Court of Tax Review.
- 4. Proceeding pursuant to § 2881: A complaint filed with the Court of Tax Review pursuant to <u>68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881</u> (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997), must comply with Rule 11 Form No. 1. The Complaint must state the year of the ad valorem assessment to be reviewed. **The Complaint must have attached as Exhibit A the properly completed form prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.** <u>68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881(A)</u>, (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997). The Complaint must specify the counties where the property is located. **The Complaint must be filed within thirty (30) days of the notice of assessment, and the Complaint must have attached as Exhibit B a copy of the notice. <u>68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881(A)</u>, (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997). The Complaint shall specify the amount of the assessed valuation protested. Id.**
- B. **Substantial Compliance**. Complaints, protests, and notices of intent to appeal shall be in substantial compliance with the applicable provisions of Title 68 authorizing the filing thereof. ³
- 68 O.S. Ch. 1, Art. 28, Rule 3 (emphasis added).
- ¶8 The contradictions contained in the statute and Rule 3 are confusing and misleading as to what a complainant must do to file a conforming and timely appeal. For instance, in order to file a protest, section 2881(A) requires that the taxpayer file a written complaint within 20 days of the date of the notice. Section 2881(A) also requires that a written complaint be on a form prescribed by the OTC. The OTC prescribes Form 989 as its Notice of Protest to the State Board of Equalization and the Oklahoma Tax Commission of Filing in Court of Tax Review. The Rules, however, contain language that directly conflicts with Section 2881. Rule 3(A)(4) requires that the complaint be filed within 30 days of the date of the notice of assessment. Further, Rules 3(A) and 11 require that a tax payer not file the Form 989, but instead attach the form as an exhibit to a complaint form prescribed by the Supreme Court. A taxpayer is further mislead by Rule 3(B) because it only requires substantial compliance with the statute. The text of Rule 3(A), however, requires strict compliance with the Rule. The taxpayer must choose between sets of instructions and then make a judgment call on which to follow--this does not put the taxpayer on notice as to the correct procedure for filing a compliant protest. If a mistake is made, the taxpayer is then deprived of a meaningful opportunity to be heard.
- ¶9 The failure to ensure that TTC's due process rights were protected does not end with the questionable wording of statutes and rules. To understand why TTC's right to due process was violated, it is important to not only look at the statutorily mandated time to appeal, as the majority does, but also to address the conflicting information TTC received from the OSBE and OTC during the relevant time period. In a letter dated June 16, 2022, the OSBE advised TTC of the ad valorem taxation for the year 2022. ⁶ In pertinent part, the letter states:

In accordance with the provision of <u>68 O.S. § 2881</u>, and the Rules of the Court of Tax Review, 68 O.S. Ch. 1, Art. 28, App., this amount shall be final and absolute at the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date of this notice unless written complaint is filed with the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review. Rule 11 of the Rules of the Court of Tax Review provides the format for the complaint. ⁷

However, on June 21, 2022, the OTC mailed a letter with a printout of TTC's original cost and assessed values for the 2022 assessment year. In this letter, which noted **AD VALOREM** over the date, the OTC stated: "Please verify the accuracy of this data immediately. Verification and confirmation of this information is critical. . . . Report all discrepancies **no later than**Thursday, July 7, 2022."

Following the OTC's instruction, TTC mailed its Form 989 to protest the valuation of its ad valorem taxes on July 7, 2022, within the OTC's asserted deadline.

Since the date of mailing is considered the filing date for the

Court of Tax Review, 10 TTC timely filed its protest to the ad valorem taxes assessed by OSBE, as required by the letter from OTC. The date of filing is especially important to note because Rule 3 advises a taxpayer that only substantial compliance with the statute is required, and Rule 3 allows thirty (30) days for filing a protest in the Court of Tax Review.

¶10 This case is even further complicated when we consider this Court's actions. First, the Clerk of the Supreme Court (who is also the Clerk of Court of Tax Review pursuant to <u>68 O.S.2011, § 3024</u>) file-stamped receipt of TTC's Form 989 on July 11, 2023. 11 Oklahoma Supreme Court Rule 1.4(c) states that when a petition is delivered by the United States Postal Service, the postmark or date stamped by the post office upon a certified mail receipt, is deemed to be the date of filing of the petition. This is commonly known as the mailbox rule. TTC submitted evidence that the date of mailing was July 7, so the date of filing should have been July 7, 2022. 12

¶11 Second, after TTC filed Form 989, this Court sent an Order noting the filing of the form, but requiring TTC to submit a complaint conforming to Rule 11, Form 1, as required by Rule 3. ¹³ This Court gave TTC until July 22, 2022--6 days past Rule 3's thirty day deadline--to submit its revised complaint. ¹⁴ TTC timely submitted the form by the time specified. ¹⁵ At no time did this Court advise TTC that by filing Form 989, TTC was out of time. ¹⁶ Instead, the taxpayer interpreted this order as an extension of the deadline to file its amended complaint. The majority asserts that TTC missed the 30 day deadline required by Rule 3 and therefore lost the right to claim a timely filing pursuant to Rule 3. ¹⁷ Isn't that convenient? This is clearly a trap because the actions of this Court, which misled TTC, caused it to miss the Rule 3 deadline.

¶12 The Court of Tax Review dismissed this case because it concluded that the actions of the OSBE, OTC and the Supreme Court were not binding on that court, and concluded that the protest was untimely filed and not in substantial compliance with section 2881. The Court of Tax Review also dismissed TTC's protest due to the fact that "OTC 989 is null and void as the purported complaint was not signed by an attorney." 18 The requirement that a corporation cannot file Form 989 or a complaint without the signature of an attorney is not explained in either section 2881 or Rule 3. Form 989 does not list such a requirement or provide a signature block specifically for an attorney. Further, neither the letters from OSBE or OTC nor the order of this Court put TTC on notice that it must be represented by counsel. Assuming the CEO of TTC was familiar with other procedural rules or statutes, nothing alerted TTC to the fact that it must be represented by counsel. Oklahoma Supreme Court Rule 1.5(b), which specifically states that corporations must be represented by counsel, is inapplicable because this rule only applies to "parties to actions in the Supreme Court or Court of Civil Appeals." 12 O.S. 2022, App. 1, Rule 1.5(b). The Entry of Appearance statute, 12 O.S.2011, § 2005.2, also does not clearly put a corporation on notice that it needs counsel. It only addresses corporations by stating: "If no entry of appearance is filed within thirty (30) days from the date of the order permitting withdrawal, then the unrepresented party, other than a corporation, is deemed to be . . . acting pro se." 12 O.S.2011, § 2005.2. Rule 11, Form 1 which requires an attestation of SERVICE BY COUNSEL, was the first time TTC was alerted to the fact that it needed to be represented by an attorney in this proceeding, and the Amended Complaint was signed by counsel.

¶13 Every time TTC was instructed to perform an action, TTC complied. Yet, the majority concludes that because the untimely filing of TTC's complaint is jurisdictional, the decision of the Court of Tax Review must be upheld. In order to arrive at this conclusion, the majority ignores the totality of the circumstances facing this taxpayer. Arguably, TTC's complaint was timely. Even assuming it was untimely, TTC's right to due process was violated. It is not a single occurrence in this case that led to the violation of due process, but instead the numerous snares that worked together to deprive TTC of the right to protest the assessment by the OSBE. First, there are multiple internal conflicts in both the statute and Rules. Second, there are conflicts between statute and the Rules that prevented TTC from even being able to determine what constituted a timely filing, or even what constituted a compliant filing. Third, there is a conflict between the dates given in the OSBE and OTC letters, with the latter purporting to give TTC a later date by which to report any discrepancies. Fourth, the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review did not timely file-stamp TTC's protest Form 989, adding to confusion regarding the timeliness of the filing. Fifth, this Court issued an order which purported to give TTC extra time to file a conforming complaint. Just to put a nail in the coffin, the majority finds that TTC's first amended complaint filed on the date specified by court order, was untimely because the complaint was filed after the 30 day limitation of Rule 3. Lastly, there was nothing in the statutes, Rules, letters, or orders that would put TTC on notice that it had to have an attorney to file a protest in this case. The combined effect of this morass is to deny TTC its right to due process. For these reasons, I dissent.

FOOTNOTES

COMBS, J.:

¹ <u>68 O.S. 2021, § 2881</u>:

- A. The secretary of the State Board of Equalization shall notify all railroads, air carriers and public service corporations of the ad valorem tax assessments rendered by the State Board, including the valuation, assessment ratio and total amount of assessment. The notice, which shall clearly be marked with the date upon which it was prepared, shall be mailed within one (1) working day of such date. The taxpayer shall have twenty (20) calendar days from the date of the notice in which to file, with the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review, a written complaint on a form prescribed by the Tax Commission, specifying grievances with the pertinent facts in relation thereto in ordinary and concise language, without repetition, and in such manner as to enable a person of common understanding to know what is intended. The complaint shall include the amount of Oklahoma assessed valuation protested and the grounds for the protest. The taxpayer shall be required to send a copy of the complaint to the Tax Commission.
- B. If the taxpayer fails to file a written complaint within the twenty-day period provided for in this section, then the assessed valuation stated in the notice, without further action of the State Board of Equalization, shall become final and absolute at the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date the notice is mailed to the taxpayer.
- C. After the filing of a complaint provided for in subsection A of this section, the State Board of Equalization shall have thirty (30) days within which to file an answer. The Court of Tax Review shall set a date of hearing, conduct such hearing, render its decision, and notify in writing the taxpayer and the State Board of Equalization of its decision within sixty (60) days of the date of the scheduling conference. The Court of Tax Review shall be authorized and empowered to take evidence pertinent to the complaint, and for that purpose may compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records and papers by subpoena, and to confirm, correct or adjust the valuation, as required by law.
- D. The State Board of Equalization shall notify, in writing and by certified mail, the Attorney General and all affected school districts and other recipients of ad valorem tax revenue of the complaint provided for by this section within ten (10) days of the filing of the complaint.
- E. The Attorney General may appear in all actions to enforce the valuation and assessment of property by the State Board of Equalization and the collection of ad valorem tax which is the subject of the complaint filed pursuant to this section.
- F. Either the State Board of Equalization or the party filing a complaint pursuant to this section may appeal the decision of the Court of Tax Review by filing a notice of intent to appeal with the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the final decision is sent to the parties. Appeal shall be brought in the Oklahoma Supreme Court in the same manner as provided for other appeals from the Court of Tax Review. The Supreme Court shall give precedence to such appeals and affirm the decision of the Court of Tax Review if supported by competent evidence. If the Oklahoma Supreme Court assigns the appeal to the Court of Civil Appeals, the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals shall give precedence to the appeal and affirm the decision of the Court of Tax Review if supported by competent evidence.
- G. In all instances where the notice of assessed valuation certified by the State Board of Equalization has been permitted to become final, such notice shall have the same force and be subject to the same law as a judgment not subject to further appeal.

- ² 68 O.S. 2021, § 2881, was last amended by 2001 Okla. Sess. Laws ch. 358, § 21, eff. July 1, 2001 (HB 1203). This amendment changed the period to file a written complaint from thirty (30) days to twenty (20) days.
- 3 Rule 2, (RCTR)(amnd. by Order of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in *In re: Amendments to Rules for the Oklahoma Court of Tax Review*, 1997 OK 85) which was relevant to this tax assessment at all pertinent times:

The times within which to file a complaint of the State Board of Equalization or notice of intent to appeal a decision of the Oklahoma Tax Commission as provided by statute is jurisdictional and may not be waived or otherwise extended. The Jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review shall be invoked by:

- 1. The timely filing with the State Auditor and Inspector of a complaint challenging the legality of the budget for the taxing entities within the county or the legality of the tax levy. 68 O.S.1991 § 3023.
- 2. The timely filing with the Clerk of the Appellate Courts of a complaint challenging a valuation or equalization order of the State Board of Equalization. 68 O.S.1991 § 2882 and 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881 (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997).
- 3. The timely filing with the Clerk of the Appellate Courts of an intent to appeal a decision of non-compliance. <u>68</u> <u>O.S.1991 § 2883</u>.
- 4 Rule 3, (RCTR)(amnd. by Order of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in *In re: Amendments to Rules for the Oklahoma Court of Tax Review*, 1997 OK 85) which was relevant to this tax assessment at all pertinent times:
 - A. Strict Compliance. Complaints and notices of intent to appeal shall be in strict compliance with the following:
 - 1. An original and four copies of all pleadings, complaints, protests, notices of intent to appeal, responses and other filings shall be prepared on 8 1/2 " x 11" paper only.
 - 2. In all proceedings the complaint, notice, or protest must state the county in which the property which is the subject of the proceeding is located.
 - 3. In all proceedings where the Oklahoma Tax Commission is required by statute to prescribe the form for filing a complaint or notice with the Court of Tax Review a completed copy of the form shall be attached to the complaint or notice filed with the Court of Tax Review.
 - 4. Proceeding pursuant to § 2881: A complaint filed with the Court of Tax Review pursuant to 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881 (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997), must comply with Rule 11 Form No. 1. The Complaint must state the year of the ad valorem assessment to be reviewed. The Complaint must have attached as Exhibit A the properly completed form prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881(A), (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997). The Complaint must specify the counties where the property is located. The Complaint must be filed within thirty (30) days of the notice of assessment, and the Complaint must have attached as Exhibit B a copy of the notice. 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881(A), (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997). The Complaint shall specify the amount of the assessed valuation protested. Id.
 - B. Substantial Compliance. Complaints, protests, and notices of intent to appeal shall be in substantial compliance with the applicable provisions of Title 68 authorizing the filing thereof.
- ⁵ Rule 11(RCTR), Form No. 1:

Form No. 1--Taxpayer complaint pursuant to <u>68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2881</u>, (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997).

	1
)
)
Complainant	,
Complainant,)
V.	No
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION)
Respondent.)
ASS	SESSMENT FOR(YEAR)
The complainant taxpayer,assessment states as follows:	_, for its Complaint for Review of its ad valorem property
1. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is the properl complaint pursuant to 68 O.S.Supp.1995 § 2	y completed form specified by the Oklahoma Tax Commission for filing a 881.
2. The property assessed in this case is loca	ted in the following congressional districts of the State of Oklahoma:
	ce of ad valorem assessment mailed to the taxpayer. ted in the following counties of the State of Oklahoma:
5. The amount of the assessed valuation pro	tested:
a manner to enable a person of common und grounds for the protest. The Complainant sha	ertinent facts in relation thereto in ordinary and concise language in such derstanding to know what is intended. The Complainant shall specify the all make these allegations in subsequently numbered paragraphs herein a necessary to present the allegations in concise language.
6.	
SERVICE BY COUNSEL	
DATE:, 19	
Signature:	
(Signature of Attorney)	-
Attorney for	
(Complainant)	
OBA No.:	
Firm:	
Address:	_
Telephone:	
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	_
いこい ロミいみした いたったがいた	

I,, hereby certify that in addition to filing the original Compla	int for Review of Ad Valorem Assessment for
with the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review copies of the foregoing (
postage prepaid, this day of 199, to the Secretary of	the State Board of Equalization, Oklahoma
Attorney General, and General Counsel of the Oklahoma Tax Commission	n at the following addresses:
(Name of Secretary of State Bd. of Equalization)	
Secretary, State Board of Equalization	
(Name of General Counsel, Oklahoma Tax Commission)	
General Counsel, Oklahoma Tax Commission	
(Name of Oklahoma Attorney General)	
Attorney General, State of Oklahoma	
⁶ Rule 3 (RCTR) was amended by this Court on December 19, 2022, <i>In</i>	Re Amendments to Rules for the Court of
<i>Tax Review</i> , <u>2022 OK 99</u> ,P.3d, 2022 WL 17818701. The thirty (30)	day filing period was reduced to twenty (20)
days in order to conform with the 2001 amendments to $\underline{68~O.S.}$, $\underline{\S~2881}$.	
specified that the Oklahoma Tax Commission Form referred to was Form	OTC 989.
⁷ The Form OTC 989 requires identifying information of the protestant, t	he tax vear of protest, information
concerning the fair cash value as well as the amount of the fair cash value	
the assessed value as well as the amount of the assessed value in contr	,
O.S. § 2881 for specific information concerning filing a written complaint	to the Court of Tax Review. It states that "
[f]or timely filing, the Oklahoma Court of Tax Review must be in receipt or	f the Notice of Protest on or before twenty
(20) days from the date listed on the State Board of Equalization's notice	of certification to the taxpayer." In addition, it
provides "[t]he taxpayer shall have twenty (20) calendar days from the day	ate of the notice [June 16, 2022] in which to
file the complaint with the Clerk of the Court of Tax Review " Mr. Seg	ress appears to have adequately provided
the required information on the Form OTC 989 and signed the same. Ho	wever, he did not file a complaint and the
Form OTC 989 is the only document he filed with the Court of Tax Review	w on July 11, 2022 pertaining to his protest
(mailed by certified mail on July 7, 2022).	
⁸ Response to Respondent's Motion for Entry of Order of Dismissal, p.4	(Aug. 29, 2022): "in construing tax laws
that, where there is any ambiguity or doubt, it must be resolved in favor of	· -
impose the burden (26 Am. & Eng. En. Law [2d Ed.] 669)," <i>McGannon</i> at	
9 68 O.S. 2021, § 221.1 (A) and (B) provide that any document required	
pursuant to a tax law of this state, the date of the stamped postmark sha	I be deemed the date of delivery and the
postmark date must fall on or before the prescribed date for filing.	
¹⁰ Rule 5 (RCTR))(amnd. by Order of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in	In re: Amendments to Rules for the
Oklahoma Court of Tax Review, 1997 OK 85) which was relevant to this	

The Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court shall assign a case to a judicial administrative district. The presiding judge of the judicial administrative district to which the case is assigned shall appoint a panel of three judges of the district court, who shall determine in what county the case will be heard. 68 O.S.Supp.1996 § 3024 (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997). All complaints, protests or notices of intent to appeal, or as many as practical, involving the same county or property in the same county will be assigned to the panel. Unless otherwise designated by the Chief Justice, the senior judge in terms of total years of judicial service shall serve as Chief Judge of the panel. All cases that were assigned to a panel of the Court of Tax Review prior to July 1, 1997 shall remain with the panel assigned for final determination. 68 O.S.Supp.1996 § 3024 (as amended by H.B. 1338, eff. July 1, 1997).

This rule requires the Chief Justice of this Court to assign the case to a judicial administrative district. Section 3024 of title 68 requires the assignment be made to a judicial administrative district in which no property that is the subject of the case is located. In order to make that determination this Court needs the information that is required in the complaint which is a required field to complete on the Rule 11, Form No. 1, i.e., the location of the subject property. The July 13, 2022 Order of this Court was requesting this information so that it could make the required assignment. This Court does not make a determination as to whether the protest invokes the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review at that time. Once this Court receives the necessary information to make the assignment, then it is left to the Court of Tax Review to determine if its jurisdiction has been properly invoked. And as here, such ruling is available to be appealed to this Court.

Title 68 O.S. 2021, § 3024 (A) also requires the Oklahoma Supreme Court to establish rules for the Court of Tax Review.

GURICH, J., with whom Kuehn, J., joins, dissenting.

- ¹ Appellant's R. on Accelerated Appeal, Tab 7, p. 2.
- ² The Clerk of the Court of Tax Review file stamped receipt of the Form 989 as July 11, 2022. However, TTC's certificate of mailing shows that the form was mailed by certified mail on July 7, 2022. Terral Tel. Co.'s Resp. to Resp't's Mot. for Entry of Order of Dismissal, Exhibit A-4. Therefore, the date of TTC's filing with the Court of Tax Review should be July 7, 2022. The majority also notes this discrepancy in footnote 7. See also 12 O.S. Supp. 2021, App. 1, Rule 1.4(c), (e) (this Rule was amended by order of the Supreme Court, 2023 OK 44, and will become effective June 1, 2023. At that time, Rules 1.4(c) and --(e) will be re-lettered as 1.4(d) and --(f)).
- ³ Rule 3 was amended by this Court on December 19, 2022, to denote the correct filing period of twenty (20) days from the date of the notice of assessment. Rule 3 was further amended on April 17, 2023, to remove the conflicting requirements of strict and substantial compliance.
- 4 To add to the confusion, the current language of Okla. Admin. Code 255:10-5-2 conflicts with both section 2881 and Rule 3, and also refers to an outdated statute (section 2466 was repealed in HB 1588 in 1991, however, it dealt with appealing findings of the OSBE). The pertinent provision of the OAC states: "Pursuant to Title 68, Section 2466, in any case where the Board shall increase the valuation of property of any railroad or public service corporation above the value returned by the taxpayer, the Secretary of the Board shall notify the taxpayer by mail, giving the amount of such valuation as increased. The taxpayer shall have **ten (10) days** from the date of such notice in which to file, with the Secretary of the Board, a written complaint, specifying his grievances, and the pertinent facts in relation thereto in ordinary and concise language and without repetition, and in such manner as to enable a person of common understanding to know what is intended." Okla. Admin. Code 255:10-5-2 (emphasis added).
- ⁵ Although Form 989 contains the language of section 2881 on the second page, the form does nothing to point the taxpayer to the Rules for the Court of Tax Review, which contain far more detailed and complicated requirements for filing a complaint than those laid out in statute.
- ⁶ Terral Tel. Co.'s Resp. to Resp't's Mot. for Entry of Order of Dismissal, Exhibit A-2.

- ⁸ *Id.*, Exhibit A-3.
- ⁹ *Id.*, Exhibit A-2, A-4.
- 10 12 O.S. Supp. 2021, App. 1, Rule 1.4(c) provides: "When a petition is delivered by the United States Postal Service, the date of mailing as shown by the postmark or other proof from the post office, such as the date stamped by the post office upon a certified mail receipt or post office tracking history, will be deemed to be the date of filing the petition." This provision is specifically made applicable to the Court of Tax Review by 12 O.S. Supp. 2021, App. 1, Rule 1.4(e).
- ¹¹ Appellant's R. on Accelerated Appeal, Tab 1.
- ¹² Terral Tel. Co.'s Resp. to Resp't's Mot. for Entry of Order of Dismissal, Exhibit A-4.
- ¹³ Appellant's R. on Accelerated Appeal, Tab 2.
- ¹⁴ *Id*.
- ¹⁵ Terral Tel. Co.'s Resp. to Resp't's Mot. for Entry of Order of Dismissal 4.
- ¹⁶ The Form 1 complaint requires the taxpayer to identify the county so as to facilitate the assignment of judges to the Court of Tax Review.
- ¹⁷ "Even if the thirty (30) day period was found to be applicable, TTC's first amended complaint would have to have been filed within thirty (30) days from the date listed on the notice of assessment in order to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Review and July 22, 2022 would have been more than thirty days from that date." Majority Op. 17.
- ¹⁸ Appellant's R. on Accelerated Appeal, Tab 9, p. 2.

Citationizer[©] Summary of Documents Citing This Document

Cite Name Level

None Found.

Citationizer: Table of Authority

Cite Name		Level			
Oklahoma Supreme Court Cases					
Cite		Name	Level		
1986 OK 74, 730 P.2	d 506, <u>57 OBJ 2977</u> ,	Luster v. Bank of Chelsea	Discussed at Length		
<u>1997 OK 85,</u>		$\underline{AMENDMENTS}$ TO THE RULES FOR THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF TAX REVIEW	Discussed at Length		
2008 OK 21, 184 P.3	<u>d 518</u> ,	ESTES v. CONOCOPHILLIPS CO.	Discussed		
2012 OK 68, 281 P.3	<u>d 1278,</u>	SAMSON RESOURCES CO. v. NEWFIELD EXPLORATION MID-CONTINENT, INC.	Discussed		
2020 OK 67, 473 P.3	<u>d 467</u> ,	COLE v. STATE ex rel. DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Discussed		
2021 OK 7, 481 P.3d	<u>883</u> ,	IN THE MATTER OF THE ASSESSMENTS FOR TAX YEAR 2012 OF CERTAIN	Discussed at Length		
		<u>PROPERTIES</u>			
2022 OK 99,		IN RE AMENDMENTS TO RULES FOR COURT OF TAX REVIEW	Cited		
<u>2023 OK 44,</u>		IN RE: AMENDMENT OF OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT RULE 1.4.	Cited		
1997 OK 125, 946 P.	2d 669, <u>68 OBJ</u>	LARRY JONES INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES, INC. v. MEANS	Discussed		
<u>3327</u> ,					
<u>1912 OK 384, 124 P.</u>	1063, <u>33 Okla. 145</u> ,	McGANNON v. STATE ex rel. TRAPP	Discussed		
1984 OK 33, 682 P.2	d 225,	Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co. v. Travis	Discussed		
Title 68. Revenue and Taxation					

Title

Cite Name Level

Cite Name		Level		
	68 O.S. 221.1,	Date of Postmark Deemed to be Date of Delivery or Payment	Cited	
	<u>68 O.S. 2881</u> ,	Notification of Ad Valorem Tax Assessments - Filing of Complaint - Hearing - Appeal	Discussed at Length	
	68 O.S. 2882,	Compliance with Legal Requirements for Level of Assessment - Filing Complaint -	Cited	
		Answer - Burden of Proof - Appeal		
	<u>68 O.S. 2883</u> ,	Appeal by County Assessor of Decision of Oklahoma Tax Commission - Notice of	Cited	
		Intent to Appeal - Answer - Burden of Proof		
	<u>68 O.S. 2884</u> ,	Payment of Full Amount of Taxes with Notice to Appeal	Cited	
	<u>68 O.S. 3023</u> ,	Examination of Budgets and Levies by Taxpayers - Filing Protests	Cited	
	<u>68 O.S. 3024,</u>	Creation of Court of Tax Review	Discussed at Length	