

Thursday, October 9, 2008

GO Card participant and OU alum offers legal advice

Attorney Stephen Kirksey remembers walking down Rochester's Main Street as a kid and dreaming about practicing law in an office above Lytle Pharmacy. Decades later, this Oakland University alumnus realized his dream when he hung his shingle on Main Street, just a couple blocks north of the pharmacy.

The Law Offices of Stephen J. Kirksey participates in the Oakland University **GO Discount Card program**, offering special rates to OU students, faculty, staff and **OU Alumni Association** members.

"I thought this was a great way to connect with Oakland," said Kirksey. "There are many young people who get into trouble and need representation, but they can't afford it from local area attorneys. For the OU community, I'll work hard to make it something they can afford."

Kirksey specializes in drunk driving, drug possession, divorce, drivers license restoration, personal injury, wills and trusts, and traffic offenses.

Legal issues for college-age students include driving offenses, possession of drugs, disorderly conduct and divorce, said Kirksey. "Alcohol issues, if not handled properly, can begin a lifetime of problems. After the second offense, they can lose their license for a year and go to jail, and after the third offense, to prison. There should be representation that explains the significance of what is happening, and I've always made myself available for free consultation."



Stephen Kirksey

Kirksey's Rochester and Oakland University roots are deep. His family lived in Rochester when he was young, and Kirksey and his wife have lived in Rochester Hills since 1979. His son and daughter-in-law are Oakland alumni, and another son will be transferring next year from Oakland Community College. His wife, Linda Davis-Kirksey, is a consultant to the OU SmartZone Business Incubator (OU INC) and is the chair of the Board of Directors for the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce, an Oakland University partner.

Kirksey enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War in 1966. When he returned, he attended Oakland University. He earned a political science degree in 1974 and a law degree from the Detroit College of Law in 1977. He operated a law office in Huntington Woods, specializing in personal injury and property damage. When a friend purchased the property on Main Street, Kirksey jumped at the opportunity to open a satellite office. Eventually, he closed the Huntington Woods office and moved his practice to Rochester.

As a high school student, Kirksey used to hitchhike to Kresge Library to do his homework. "It was the biggest library in the area in the 1960s, and I liked it because it was quiet and I wasn't distracted," he said. "I'm amazed at how much Rochester and Oakland University have grown over the years."

Contact information about the Law Offices of Stephen J. Kirksey is available on the **GO Card Web site**.

SUMMARY

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