

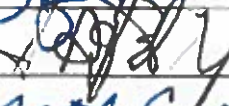


STATE OF OKLAHOMA
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAWS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Statement regarding the ABLE Commission's decision in the case of Sooner Fine Wine & Spirits, LLP versus Oklahoma ABLE Commission, RETA-2024-00021:

"With regard to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission's December 4th hearing of Sooner Fine Wine & Spirits, LLP's ("Sooner") application for a retail spirits license and the Commissioners' decision to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's denial of Sooner's application, the Commissioners were sympathetic to Sooner's application and to the position of all similarly situated businesses who understandably wish to protect the personal assets of those businesses' owners. However, the Commission is tasked with following the law as we understand it and, based on our own independent review of the State's Constitution, the Statutes, and case law interpreting both, and with the advice of independent Attorney General's office counsel, the Commissioners believe Agency staff is correct in its position that no entities that offer their owners personal liability protection may hold retail spirits licenses. The Commission does not endorse a position but believes that the only way that it may be changed is by action of the Legislature and a vote of the citizens of the State."

"The Commissioners are also aware that our decision to deny Sooner's application contradicts the previous position of allowing limited liability entities to be granted retail spirits licenses. The Commissioners understand that previous Agency staff allowed limited liability entities to be granted licenses because it misinterpreted the law. While Commission staff have now corrected this misinterpretation, it leaves numerous licensees in violation of the law. While the Commissioners believe these licensees are ultimately responsible for compliance with applicable law, the Commissioners encourage Agency staff to exercise restraint, caution and patience in allowing these licensees ample time to become compliant, or await a final court ruling, and to take no actions during this transitional period which could possibly harm these entities' business."

Chairman Jonathan Brooks		1/17/2025
Vice Chairman Andrew Revelis		1/17/2025
Commissioner H. Robert "Bob" Usry		1/17/2025
Commissioner Matthew Crook		1/17/2025
Commissioner Keith Mitchell		1/17/2025
Commissioner A. Ainslie Stanford II		1/17/2025
Commissioner Austin Benton		1/17/2025