

Instrument of Transfer Land Violations (Lions Club, Shawnee)

This doctoral lecture presents an in-depth legal and historical analysis of the Lions Club Ballfields located in Shawnee, Oklahoma—constructed on federal property governed by the 1947 Instrument of Transfer (IOT). This executive order reserved the land exclusively for airport-related development under federal restriction. The City of Shawnee's allowance of private sports operations and commercial tournaments on this site constitutes a violation of those terms.

Key cross-referenced projects include:

- **ShawneeMinutes Dataset (1998–2007):** Traces the city's use of sales tax, land planning decisions, and documentation showing city leaders knowingly used IOT land for recreational purposes.
- **Lions Club Case Study:** Aggregates data from 2001–2009 USSSA tournaments hosted on the site, totaling **\$114,764.03** in team entry fees—revenue generated without federal permission.
- **GIS Mapping & Aerial Overlays:** Confirms the ballfields fall within the protected federal land boundary.
- **City Commission Minutes & Public Safety Reports:** Show that fencing, security, and FAA compliance requirements were routinely ignored despite public requests.
- **Federal Oversight Precedent:** Integrated into Chapter 12 of the dissertation, comparing Shawnee's actions to similar IOT violations in other states.

Legal implications:

- The use of IOT land for private youth tournaments voids the land transfer's legal purpose.
- Revenue generated from this land, including gate admissions and tournament fees, may be subject to federal reclamation or repayment.
- The City's lack of transparency and refusal to produce full records triggered a formal **City of Shawnee Records Request** submitted by the researcher.

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Recommendations for reform:

- Immediate FAA and DOJ review of Shawnee's compliance with the 1947 Instrument of Transfer.
- Installation of mandated fencing, signage, and formal land-use documentation to restore compliance.
- Establishment of a citizen-led public oversight board to monitor all federally-tied sports facilities.
- Legislative updates requiring municipalities to certify federal land status before issuing field leases to private operators.

Conclusion: This case represents the intersection of federal land law, municipal accountability, and youth sports commercialization. The Lions Club Ballfields are not merely a case of poor management—they are evidence of legal negligence and federal land abuse. This lecture makes clear that Shawnee's example is not isolated but emblematic of a broader pattern requiring immediate structural reform, and it forms a central pillar in the dissertation's call for national oversight frameworks.