UT LAW CLE Continuing Legal Education

eConference
2026 Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law eConference

Session 1 0.50 hr	**Case Law Update: Part One** Review the latest decisions dealing with oil and gas leases, royalties, mineral conveyances, joint operating agreements, state regulation, and related topics. **Owen L. Anderson,** The University of Texas School of Law - Austin, TX
Session 2 0.75 hr	**State Regulatory Agencies Refresher for an Oil and Gas Attorney** Discuss recent and ongoing regulatory developments for energy lawyers at the Railroad Commission of Texas, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Public Utility Commission of Texas. **Olga Kobzar,** Scott Douglass & McConnico LLP - Austin, TX **J. Amber Ahmed,** Beveridge & Diamond - Austin, TX **Kelli Tieken Kenney,** McElroy, Sullivan, Miller & Weber, LLP - Austin, TX **Rachel Seshan,** Public Utility Commission of Texas - Austin, TX
Session 3 0.50 hr	**Texas Legislative Update** Discuss energy-related legislation that passed, and didn't pass, during the 2025 Texas legislative sessions. **Gregory S. Mathews,** Chevron U.S.A. Inc. - Houston, TX
Session 4 0.75 hr	**Royalty Overpayments, Self-Help Recoupment, and Division Order Pitfalls** What happens when an operator overpays royalties — and what happens when it tries to get them back? Survey the recoupment toolkit available to Texas operators and zeroes in on the division order issues that can complicate recovery. Drawing on *DDR Weinert v. Ovintiv* (5th Cir. 2025), *Perdido Properties v. Devon Energy* (Tex. App.—Eastland 2023), and *Samson v. Bordages* (Tex. 2024), address self-help recoupment, the risks of paying without a signed division order, and the impact of the Supreme Court's new simple-interest default rule on royalty disputes. **Austin W. Brister,** McGinnis Lochridge - Houston, TX
Session 5 0.50 hr	**Agreeing to Agree: Mutuality of Obligation in Modern Oil and Gas Contracts** Modern oil and gas contracts often contemplate future cooperation between the parties and negotiation of additional agreements, which can lead to enforceability problems. Discuss essential contract formation concepts for complex oil and gas transactions, specifically regarding consideration and mutuality of obligation. The presentation will also include a review of recent cases and suggestions for avoiding common pitfalls. **Jared DeFelice,** Jackson Walker LLP - San Antonio, TX **Brandon Durrett,** Jackson Walker LLP - San Antonio, TX
Session 6 0.50 hr	**Keynote Luncheon Presentation** **Kenneth B. Medlock III, Ph.D.,** James A. Baker III and Susan G. Baker Fellow in Energy and Resource Economics, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University - Houston, TX

Session 7 0.50 hr	**Joint Operating Agreements: Best Practices and Emerging Legal Issues** Explore key legal principles and practical considerations in structuring and negotiating JOAs in oil and gas operations. This session covers various pressing issues, including operator and non-operator rights and obligations, risk allocation, indemnity provisions, and contract modifications in the context of evolving regulatory and market conditions. **Monika U. Ehrman,** SMU Dedman School of Law - Dallas, TX
Session 8 0.50 hr	**Lost profits damages following *ETC Texas Pipeline v. XTO Energy*** Look at the court of appeals' decision in *ETC Texas Pipeline v. XTO Energy* and similar cases in Texas and across the United States. Discuss drafting ideas for agreements in light of those decisions. **Christopher Michael Hogan,** Hogan Thompson Schuelke LLP - Houston, TX
Session 9 0.50 hr	**Lessons Learned on Contract Construction Disputes** Guidance for drafting and interpreting oil & gas leases based on recent Texas Supreme Court decisions. **Douglas R. Hafer,** Curnutt & Hafer, LLP - Arlington, TX
Session 10 0.50 hr	**Gas Trading Contracts: Force Majeure and the Fallout from Uri** Cover the basics of NAESB gas trading contracts, the legal issues that arose following Winter Storm Uri, and the NAESB Special Provisions that can make or break your case. **J. McLean Bell III,** McGinnis Lochridge - Austin, TX
Session 11 1.00 hr | 1.00 Ethics	**Generative AI in Litigation: Practical Uses, Pitfalls, and Guardrails** Generative AI is rapidly reshaping litigation for attorneys and experts—from discovery and expert analysis to drafting and research. This session explores current AI trends, provides concrete real-world use cases, and discusses the legal, ethical, and evidentiary risks that need to be managed. **Kristofer Buchan,** StoneTurn Group, LLP - Houston, TX
Session 12 0.50 hr	**Business Court Update** (Almost) two years in, how goes the Court? **Hon. Grant Dorfman,** Texas Business Court, Eleventh Division - Houston, TX
Session 13 0.50 hr	**Case Law Update: Part Two** Review recent decisions dealing with oil and gas leases, royalties, mineral conveyances, joint operating agreements, state regulation, and related topics. **Christopher S. Kulander,** The University of Texas School of Law - Austin, TX
Session 14 0.75 hr	**Lithium Mining in Texas** An overview of the nascent field of lithium mining law in Texas, from leasing, to the governing statutes, to permitting projects under the Railroad Commission's new rules. **John H. H. Bennett,** Osborn & Bennett LLP - Austin, TX

Session 15 0.50 hr	**From *Cimarex to Cromwell*: A Course Correction on Lease Survival for Non-Operating Interests** Analyze the Texas Supreme Court's decision in *Cromwell v. Anadarko* and its rejection of the "washout" theory applied in *Cimarex v. Anadarko*, focusing on how passive-voice habendum clauses affect lease continuation beyond the primary term. **Lad Z. Stricker,** Vartabedian Hester & Haynes LLP - Fort Worth, TX
Session 16 0.75 hr	**Recent Developments in Federal Permitting of LNG and Natural Gas Projects** Survey recent developments at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy and in federal courts, focusing on the difficulties LNG and other natural gas project developers have historically faced due to environmental challenges raised in the regulatory permitting process and on new initiatives to accelerate federal administrative agency review when permitting energy projects. **Brett A. Snyder,** Blank Rome LLP - Washington, DC
Session 17 0.50 hr	**Natural Gas Storage in Texas: Under-Investment, Stakes, Challenges and Solutions** Underground natural gas storage, the shock absorber for the natural gas system, has not kept pace with the meteoric rise in Texas natural gas production, transportation and consumption. This presentation will survey natural gas storage facilities, the rising need for additional capacity, the stakes of continued under-investment, challenges to new investment, and solutions. **Edmund Knolle,** Gulf Coast Midstream Partners - Houston, TX
Session 18 1.00 hr | 1.00 Ethics	**Ethics Involved in Using a Landman** What ethics rules govern a lawyer's use of landmen? What can landmen do, and what does the law prohibit landmen from doing? **Keith B. Hall,** Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center - Baton Rouge, LA