

The Rule of Capture, Correlative Rights, and Principles of Conservation



Patrick H. Martin

Campanile Professor of Mineral Law, Emeritus

Law Center, Louisiana State University

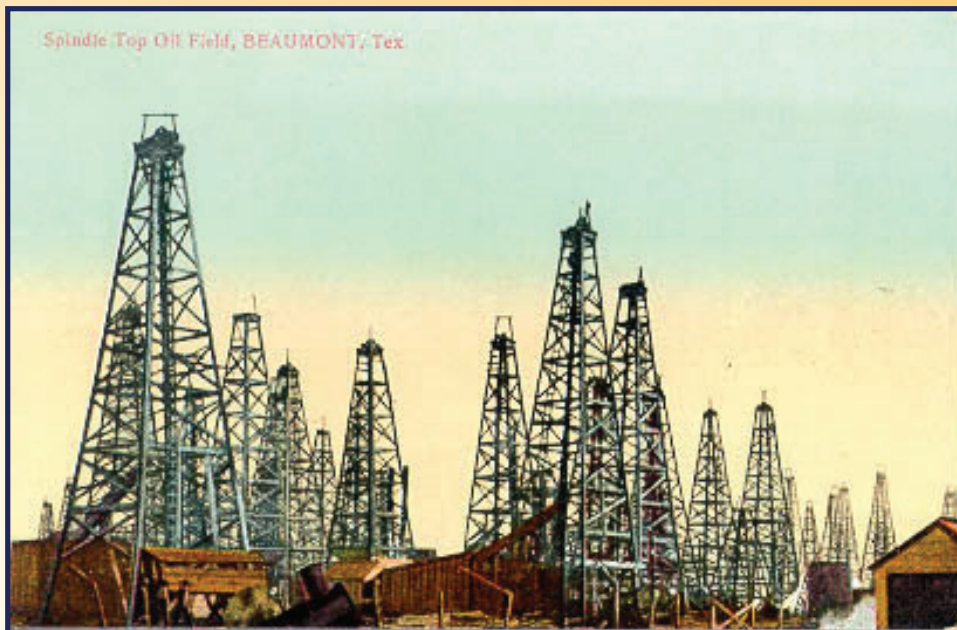
Fundamentals of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law

University of Texas School of Law - Continuing Legal Education

Houston, March 28, 2019

1

Rule of Capture – Excessive Drilling



2

Shale Fracking – Effective Drilling



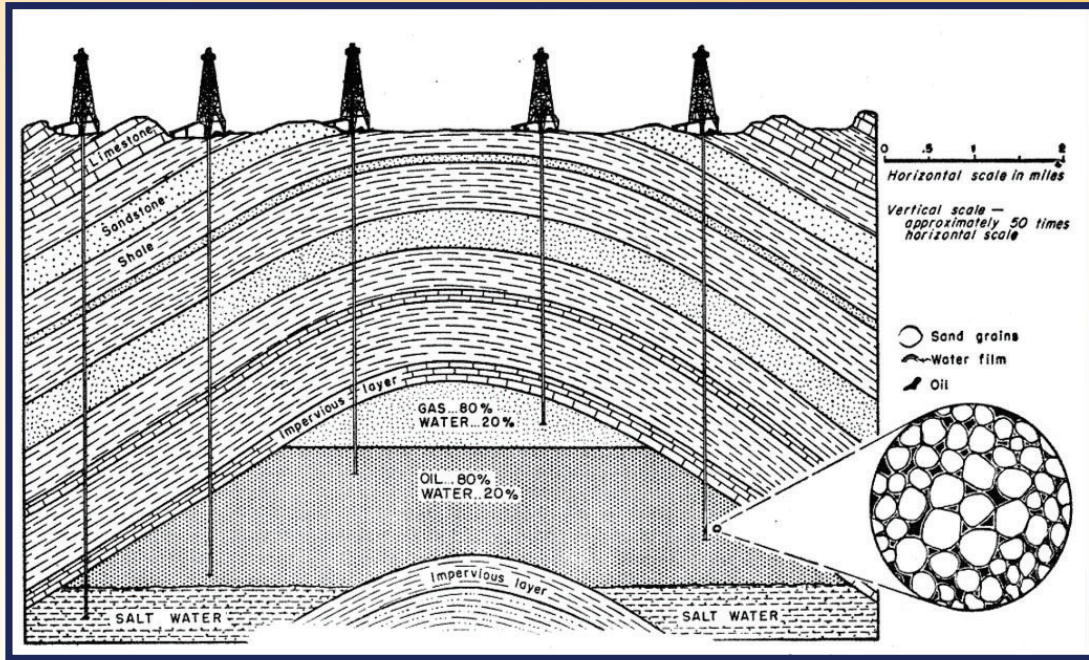
3

Characteristics of Oil & Gas

- **Petroleum:** An organic chemical compound of hydrogen and carbon. The molecular structure of hydrocarbon compounds varies from the simplest, methane (CH_4), a constituent of natural gas, to the very heavy and very complex. Octane, a constituent of crude oil, is one of the heavier, more complex molecules (C_8H_{18}). Natural gas and crude oil are fluids – gas or liquid.
- **Alkanes:**
methane, ethane, propane, and butane - (gases, used directly as fuels).
penta-, hexa-, hept-, oct-, non-, dec- etc: pentane up to around $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{36}$ are liquids.
- Located underground – trapped in reservoirs.

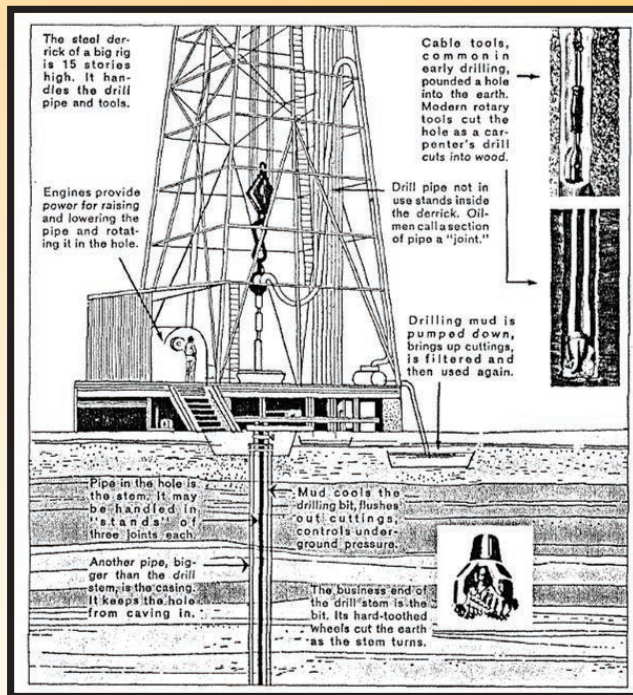
4

An Oil & Gas Reservoir



5

Drilling for Oil & Gas



6

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](https://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: The Rule of Capture, Correlative Rights and Principles of Conservation

Also available as part of the eCourse

[2019 Fundamentals of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law eConference](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
2019 Fundamentals of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law session

"The Rule of Capture, Correlative Rights and Principles of Conservation"