

48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ERNEST E. SMITH  
**OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LAW**



FUNDAMENTALS

April 21, 2022

INSTITUTE

April 22, 2022

Royal Sonesta Hotel Houston ■ Houston, Texas

 Live Webcast April 21–22

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2022

# FUNDAMENTALS OF OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LAW

April 21, 2022 ■ Royal Sonesta Hotel Houston ■ Houston, Texas

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## THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 21, 2022

### Presiding Officer:

Donato David Ramos Jr., Law Offices of  
Donato D. Ramos P.L.L.C., Laredo, TX

### 7:30 a.m. Registration Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

### 8:30 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

### 8:40 a.m. .75 hr

#### Railroad Commission Updates and Basics

Address the recent changes in regulation of the oil and gas, and pipeline industries in Texas, with emphasis on issues regarding permitting of producing wells, the transfer of inactive wells, saltwater disposal well permitting, good faith claim to title disputes, natural gas flaring exceptions, and pipeline regulations.

Ryan Lammert, Uhl, Fitzsimons, Burton, Wolff & Rangel, PLLC, San Antonio, TX

### 9:25 a.m. .75 hr

#### You have an Oil Well, Now What?

Eddie Chiles once said, "If you don't have an oil well, get one." But what comes next? Is that revenue check correct? Are production volumes properly allocated? Bashed by an offset well? A review of issues encountered during the life of an oil or gas well.

Jason Maloy, Tall Cotton Energy, Dallas, TX  
Adam Tischer, Tischer Energy, Dallas, TX

### 10:10 a.m. 15 minute Break

### 10:25 a.m. .75 hr

#### Emerging and Re-Emerging Issues in the Use of Surface for Oil and Gas Operations

Explore the nature and extent of the implied easement to use the surface, and a framework for analyzing the accommodation doctrine. Also hear a survey of emerging and re-emerging issues involving conflicting uses of the surface estate, including conflicts with renewable projects, saltwater disposal operations, sand mining, and subsurface easements.

Austin W. Brister, McGinnis Lochridge, Houston, TX

### 11:10 a.m. .50 hr

#### Uses and Abuses of Division Orders

A discussion of the Division Order statute and recent amendment of the Division Order statute in light of *ConocoPhillips Co. v. Koopman*, 547 S.W.3d 858 (Tex. 2018).

Michael D. Jones, Jones Gill Porter Crawford & Crawford LLP, Houston, TX

### 11:40 a.m. Pick up Lunch

Included in Registration

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON

### Presiding Officer:

Donato David Ramos Jr., Law Offices of  
Donato D. Ramos P.L.L.C., Laredo, TX

### LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

### 12:05 p.m. .75 hr ethics

#### Conflict of Interest Considerations in an Oil and Gas Practice

A review and refresher on different types of conflicts of interest situations that could arise in an oil and gas practice, including how to assess such situations and points to consider in determining whether a conflict exists.

George E. Shires, Cotton Bledsoe Tighe & Dawson PC, Midland, TX

### 12:50 p.m. 15-minute Break

### 1:05 p.m. .75 hr

#### Fundamentals of Royalty Calculation: How a Few Small Words Can Make a Big Difference

An overview of the various types of royalty clauses and their most common components, as well as the proper methodologies for calculating royalties under each of those clauses. A review of the key cases in Texas – and other states – interpreting these clauses.

Byron C. Keeling, Keeling & Fredrickson, P.C., Houston, TX

### 1:50 p.m. .50 hr

#### Introduction of Co-Tenancy Accounting

An overview of the rights and obligations of mineral co-tenants with regard to one another where there is no agreement between them, with particular focus on how a developing co-tenant must account to an unleased or uncommitted mineral co-tenant who does not participate in the cost of operating.

William B. Burford, Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP, Midland, TX

### 2:20 p.m. .50 hr

#### A Primer on Oil and Gas Transportation Agreements: Key Issues & Considerations

Explore midstream transactions and the contracts commonly utilized in the energy industry governing the movement of oil and gas from the wellhead to a point downstream for resale or further handling. Work through commercial and regulatory considerations and key issues when analyzing and negotiating transportation contracts.

Jesse S. Lotay, Jackson Walker LLP, Houston, TX

### 2:50 p.m. 10-minute Break

### 3:00 p.m. .75 hr

#### JOA Basics and Pitfalls: General Structure and Litigation Hotspots

Review key provisions of the American Association of Petroleum Landmen 610 Model Form Operating Agreements and highlight trouble spots and related litigation.

Christopher S. Kulander, South Texas College of Law Houston, Houston, TX

### 3:45 p.m. .75 hr

#### It Ain't Over Till It's Over: A Survey of Oil and Gas Lease Savings Clauses

Oil and gas leases frequently contain a number of savings clauses that may perpetuate the lease in its secondary term by means and circumstances other than actual production. An overview of common savings clauses and how they are applied under Texas law, including continuous operations, shut-in, dry-hole, reworking, pooling, continuous development, force majeure, and paying quantities, among others.

Paul B. Westbrook, Harris, Finley & Bogle, P.C., Fort Worth, TX

### 4:30 p.m. .50 hr

#### Marketing Contracts

A quick primer on practices for marketing crude oil and natural gas.

Thomasine Lowry Pantazis, ConocoPhillips Company, Houston, TX

### 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

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## Presiding Officer:

Robert G. Hargrove, Davis, Gerald &amp; Cremer PC, Austin, TX

## 7:10 a.m. Registration Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

## 8:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

## 8:10 a.m. .75 hr

## Case Law Update: Part One

Review recent 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

## 8:55 a.m. .75 hr

## Fundamentals of Carbon Capture and Sequestration

A summary of the existing federal and state framework for regulating carbon sequestration, covering descriptions of recent legislative and regulatory developments, and identifying and discussing legal and practical hurdles to developing carbon sequestration projects in Texas.

Thomas M. Weber, McElroy, Sullivan, Miller & Weber, LLP, Austin, TX

## Materials By:

Paul R. Tough, McElroy, Sullivan, Miller & Weber, LLP, Austin, TX

## 9:40 a.m. .50 hr

Restraints on Alienation and Consent-to-Assign in Light of *Mayo Foundation vs. BP*

Review the historical uncertainty in Texas law about the enforceability of various types of consent-to-assign provisions that can be found in a mineral lease, with the additional context of recent federal court guidance from *Mayo Foundation v. BP* (N.D. Tex. 2020) on when a lessor may or may not be acting "reasonably" in withholding its consent.

T. Ray Guy, Frost Brown Todd LLC, Dallas, TX  
Jason E. Wright, Wright Commercial Litigation, Allen, TX

## 10:10 a.m. 15-min Break

## 10:25 a.m. .75 hr

## Voluntary Pooling in Texas: An In-Depth Analysis

Examine several substantive and procedural points impacting voluntary pooling in Texas, including common types of voluntary pooling arrangements, legal requirements for valid pooling, pooling's effects on oil and gas leases and on the interests of the parties involved, remedies arising from an invalid or improper exercise of the pooling power, express and implied ratifications of pooled units, and unique issues stemming from the practice of horizontal drilling.

Katy Wehmeyer, Santoyo Wehmeyer P.C., San Antonio, TX

## 11:10 a.m. .50 hr | .25 hr ethics

## Winter Storm Uri

Did marketing and midstream agreements withstand the deep freeze?

Michael K Reer, Harris, Finley & Bogle, P.C., Fort Worth, TX

## 11:40 a.m. Pick up Lunch

Included in Registration.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

## Presiding Officer:

Robert G. Hargrove, Davis, Gerald &amp; Cremer PC, Austin, TX

## LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

## 12:05 p.m. .75 hr ethics

## ESG and What it Means to the Industry

Hear an explanation of what ESG is and how it fits within the concept of enterprise sustainability. The presentation will also discuss how ESG specifically affects the industry and why lawyers from the energy industry should pay attention to ESG, including identifying risks attendant to ESG avoidance, as well as risks related to ESG program development and reporting.

Gerald J. Pels, Locke Lord LLP, Houston, TX

## 12:50 p.m. 15-minute Break

## 1:05 p.m. .50 hr

## Case Law Update Part 2

Review recent 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

## 1:35 p.m. .50 hr | .25 hr ethics

A Discussion of *Concho v. Ellison* and *Broadway Bank v. Yates*

Review the impact of two Texas Supreme Court cases on the ability to correct deed mistakes and resolve title disputes without court intervention.

Julie L. Griffis, Davis, Gerald & Cremer PC, Midland, TX

## 2:05 p.m. .75 hr

## Royalty Litigation Post Production Cost

Two litigators who handle post production cost claims, one who normally represents lessors/payees and one who normally represents lessees/payors, discuss recent case law in the area.

Robert G. Hargrove, Davis, Gerald & Cremer PC, Austin, TX  
Ricardo E. Morales, Person, Mohrer, Morales, Boddy, Garcia & Gutierrez PLLC, Laredo, TX

## 2:50 p.m. 10-minute Break

## 3:00 p.m. .50 hr

*Apache v. Castex* and the Willful Misconduct Standard in JOA(s)

A review of the JOA exculpatory clause and the operator's "willful misconduct" standard. Discussion of recent developments in Texas case law, including *Apache v. Castex*, *Reeder v. Wood County Energy*, and *Abraxas Petroleum v. Hornburg*.

James Martin Truss, Dykema, San Antonio, TX

## 3:30 p.m. .50 hr

## Produced Water: The Next "Title" Wave of Oil and Gas Litigation

Over the past decade, produced water has transitioned from one of the oil patch's greatest liabilities to one of its fastest growing assets. And, as produced water's quality and value continue to rise is it sure to produce the oil patch's next "title wave" of litigation.

Reagan Marble, Jackson Walker LLP, San Antonio, TX

## Co-Authors:

Robert Biedrzycki, Jackson Walker LLP, San Antonio, TX  
Peter E. Hosey, Jackson Walker LLP, San Antonio, TX

4:00 p.m. .50 hr

**Construing Retained Acreage and Related Clauses after *Endeavor v. Discovery Operating* and *XOG v. Chesapeake***

A review of cases construing retained acreage, continuous development and related clauses that have been decided in the years following the Texas Supreme Court's decisions in *Endeavor v. Discovery Operating* and *XOG v. Chesapeake*.

J. Derrick Price, McGinnis Lochridge, Austin, TX

**Co-Author:**

Lecelle Clarke, McGinnis Lochridge, Austin, TX

4:30 p.m. .50 hr

**The Role of Warranties in Oil and Gas Transactions and Disputes**

Review the nature and effect of title and other warranties, and discuss how different warranty structures within transaction documents may impact parties' rights. Explore enforcement issues and strategic considerations when negotiating and drafting transactions.

Clifton A. Squibb, Hamilton Squibb & Shores, LLP, Dallas, TX

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

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- Live, Webcast Registration . . . . . \$375 | \$425 after April 13

#### Fundamentals Printed and Shipped Binder with Registration (Shipping Included) – Available Through Friday, April 22

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April 21–22, 2022

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