



Institute for  
**ENERGY LAW**

# The Energy Law Advisor

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## Industry News

### In Memoriam



The Editorial Board, with a heavy heart, wishes to say goodbye to our friend Russ Schetroma who passed away on March 12, 2015. Russ was an outstanding oil and gas lawyer and a long standing IEL supporter and Advisory Board Member.

### *White Paper: When Worlds Collide: Results of the Rise of Private Equity as the Funding Source of Choice for American Oil and Gas Developers*

By: Andrew Eil, Bloomberg BNA, Sharon O. Flanery, Russell L. Schetroma, Kurt L. Krieger, Michael B. Stuart, and Ryan Morgan from Steptoe & Johnson PLLC

This White Paper explores the changing nature of oil and gas financial transactions in which private equity is participating in today's oil and gas industry in the U.S. [Read more...](#)

### *Rigging Rights of Passage: Analyzing Subsurface Easements in Horizontal Drilling*

By: Garrett Wilkerson, University of Mississippi School of Law

This article, which is the 2015 IEL Hartrick Scholar Writing Competition Winner, examines the impact of horizontal drilling on

Houston, Texas

**Jack Massey**  
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#### **Submissions**

**Industry News**  
Email [Harry Sullivan](#) and  
[Lilly Hogarth](#).

**Member Announcements**  
Email [Lilly Hogarth](#). Please  
submit photo with  
announcement if possible.

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subsurface property rights, including subsurface trespass or interference issues stemming from horizontal drilling. [Read more...](#)

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#### ***ORRIs, NPIs, and VPPs: Considerations for the Current Financial Environment***

By: Jessica L. Crutcher, William H. Knull III, Kevin L. Shaw, Mayer Brown LLP

This Article examines the use of overriding royalty interests (ORRI), net profits interests (NPI) and production payments (VPP) as mechanisms for obtaining liquidity in today's low price environment by monetizing the future production of oil and gas. [Read more...](#)

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#### ***What's in your Pipeline Safety Tool Kit? New Recommendations from the American Petroleum Institute are on the Horizon***

By: Amber B. Shushan, Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan LLP

This year, pipeline operators anticipate the publication of the American Petroleum Institute's (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1173: Pipeline Safety Management System Requirements ("RP 1173"). The API's goal for RP 1173 is to help the industry achieve "zero incidents" through use of Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS) and improved safety cultures. [Read more...](#)

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#### ***10 Keys to a Successful LNG Export Project***

By: Philip R. Weems, Kathryn Marietta, King & Spalding LLP

With so many LNG export projects proposed for North America, one must question how many will succeed. This timely Article examines some of the attributes that have historically contributed to a successful export project. [Read more...](#)

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#### ***Book Review: Oil and Gas Implied Covenants for the 21st Century***

By: John Burritt McArthur (Juris Publishing, Inc. 2014 (ISBN 978-1-57823-340-3))

[Read more...](#)

#### **IEL News**

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The IEL will be presenting its 2nd Texas Mineral Title Program in Houston's JW Marriott Hotel on Westheimer on Thursday and Friday, May 14 and 15.

Building on the success of 2013's first Texas Mineral Title

Course, co-chairs Kerry Kilburn and George Snell are planning to present again this year. Planned topics include:

- Comprehensive course covering all aspects of title examination
- Exceptionally experienced faculty
- Title standards
- Relationship between title and oil & gas agreements
- Royalties and production issues

The Mineral Title Course is designed for lawyers, landmen and other oil and gas professionals who either are in the business of giving title opinions, or who need to understand Texas land title and oil and gas pooling, spacing and other regulations.

You can find more details and register at [this link](#).

### ***Members in the News***

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The IEL is proud to welcome 2 new **Supporting Members**:

- **K&L Gates LLP**, Houston with the following Advisory Board Members: Tony Newton, Nicholas Ranjan, Sandy Safro, David Sweeney, David Wochner and Brett Young
- **Reed Smith LLP**, Houston with the following Advisory Board Members: Kevin Abbott, Nicole Bagnell, Kerri Cox, Craig Enochs, Leah Rudnicki, Stephan Selinidis

In addition to 3 new **Sponsoring Members**:

- **Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC**, Houston, with D. Mitchell McFarland as their Advisory Board Member Representative
- **Shay Glenn LLP**, San Mateo, with W. Benjamin Glennt as their Advisory Board Member Representative
- **SOCAR Turkiye Enerji AS**, Istanbul, with Fatih Yigit as their Advisory Board Member Representative

The IEL also now counts a new **Law School Member**: **Queen Mary University of London - Centre for Commercial Law Studies** in London.

Please help us welcome IEL's newest **Associate Members** and representatives on the Advisory Board:

- **Michael Browning** (Burleson LLP, San Antonio)
- **Kenneth Bullock** (Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr , Houston)
- **Mark Clark** (Burleson LLP, Houston)
- **Jennifer Douglas-Abubakar** (Abuja)
- **Timothy Garvin** (Sasol North America Inc., Houston)
- **Hugh Hackney** (JAMS, Inc., Dallas)
- **Daniel Harkins** (Daniel C. Harkins, Attorney-at-Law, Springfield)

- **Steven Levine** (The Brattle Group, Inc., Cambridge)
- **Daniel Pipitone** (Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, Houston)
- **Trent Rosenthal** (Burleson LLP, Houston)
- **Shelley Smithson** (Sasol North America Inc., Houston)
- **Randel Young** (K&L Gates LLP, Houston)

Our newest **Young Energy Professional Members** are:

- **David Kuczer** (Freeman Mills PC, Dallas)
- **Paul Ovono** (BlueStar Land Services, Norman)
- **Brett Podkanowicz** (Midland)
- **Timothy Sullivan** (King & Spalding LLP, Washington)
- **Thomas Taff** (Hammond)
- **Tonya Thurman** (CAP, Tulsa)
- **Robert Woods** (YetterColeman LLP, Houston)

### Calendar of Events

#### 2nd Texas Mineral Title Course

Houston, TX  
May 14-15,  
2015

#### Dealing with Counterparty / Bankruptcy Risk in the Upstream Oil and Gas Industry

Houston, TX  
May 22, 2015

#### Natural Resources Law Teachers Conference

Salt Lake City,  
UT

#### 5th IEL-SEERIL International Oil & Gas Law Conference

London, UK  
June 4-5, 2015

#### 2nd Appalachia YEP General Counsel Forum

Pittsburgh, PA  
June 16, 2015

#### 6th Law of Shale Plays Conference

Pittsburgh, PA  
Sept 10-11, 2015



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