



Institute for  
**ENERGY LAW**

# The Energy Law Advisor

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## Editor's Comments:

The first quarter of 2017 has already zoomed by us with stabilizing oil and gas prices, a strong uptick in oil and gas M&A deals and an oil and gas industry still very much in a recovery mode. The Institute for Energy Law held its 68th Annual Oil & Gas Law Conference on February 16-17, 2017 and the Institute has honored John S. Watson, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Chevron Corporation with the John Rogers Award, Professor Jacqueline Lang Weaver A.A. White Professor of Law, University of Houston Law center with the Deans of Oil and Gas Practice Lecture, Daniel M. McClure, Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP with the Lifetime Achievement in Energy Litigation Award and Channing Jones, Columbia Law School with the Hartrick Scholar Writing Competition Award.

## Industry News

### *Deans of Oil and Gas Practice Lecture:*

### [The Role of the Regulator: Reflections on Forty Years of Research and Learning about Energy, Economics & the Environment](#)

Remarks by Professor Jacqueline Lang Weaver, A.A. White Professor of Law

### [Lifetime Achievement Award in Energy Litigation](#)

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**Submissions**

**Industry News**

Email [Harry Sullivan](#) and  
[Vickie Adams](#).

**Member Announcements**

Email [Vickie Adams](#).  
Please submit photo with  
announcement if possible.

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Remarks by Daniel M. McClure, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

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***Hartrick Scholar Writing Competition Award:***

**[The Natural Gas Act, State Environmental Policy and the Jurisdiction of the Federal Circuit Courts](#)**

By: Channing Jones, Columbia Law School

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**[Louisiana Third Circuit Addresses Payment of Royalties in Situations Involving Production Under a Mineral Lease Pursuant to a Conditional Allowable Prior to Unitization](#)**

By Brittan J. Bush and Jeffrey D. Lieberman, Liskow & Lewis

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**[A Glimpse at Arbitration in International Commercial Transactions](#)**

By J. Richard Gallagher, Attorney at Law, Dallas, Texas

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**[The Implication of Recent Court Decisions for Issuers of Debt Securities](#)**

By Bill Hart Jr. and John P. Berkery, Mayer Brown

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**[Are Texas Oil Companies Ready for Chinese Investors?](#)**

By Taisong He, International Attorney (Licensed in Texas and the People's Republic of China)

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**[U.S. Fifth Circuit Affirms Application of the Subsequent Purchaser Doctrine in Oilfield Contamination Case, Recognizes “Clear Consensus” Among Louisiana Appellate Courts, and Declines Certification to the Louisiana Supreme Court](#)**

By Jonathan A. Hunter, Elizabeth S. Wheeler, Kelly Brechtel Becker and Kathryn Zainey Gonski, Liskow & Lewis

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**[Update – 1st National Young Energy Professionals’ Law Conference](#)**

By Jay E. Ray, Director, Institute for Energy Law

The Institute for Energy Law significantly increased its offerings for young energy professionals—defined by the IEL as person’s under 40 years of age—this spring with the 1st National Young Energy Professionals’ Law Conference. Held March 31-April 1, 2017, in New Orleans, the conference featured outstanding programming, excellent networking opportunities, and sage advice from political, judicial and industry leaders, while offering attendees up to 9.25 hours of MCLE credit and 2 hours of ethics credit.

The conference started Thursday evening with a full house at Pat O’s on Bourbon Street for three hours of socializing, food, and

refreshments. Attendees ranged in experience from 1st year associates to partners with 15 years of experience and in-house legal leaders. They came to the conference from thirteen states and three countries to learn, share stories, discuss their practices, and build new friendships and professional networks.

On Friday morning the conference kicked off with US Congressman Garret Graves, who spoke to a full room regarding the current political environment, the importance of the energy industry to his district and the country. The session concluded with numerous questions from the audience, a trend that occurred throughout the conference.

Congressman Graves was followed by a judicial panel featuring two U.S. District Court Judges and one U.S. Magistrate Judge and an in-house panel featuring general counsel and associate or deputy counsel from Chevron, GE Oil and Gas, Halcon Resources Corp. and Transocean. The panelists shared valuable insight regarding the secrets of success, ethical and practice pitfalls, working with the court's offices, and impressing and keeping in-house counsel happy.

At lunch, Tulane University Law School Dean, David D. Meyer, interviewed Exxon Mobil Corporation's General Counsel, Randall Ebner, in a session that was universally described by the attendees as outstanding. Attendees commented that it was the "best talk by a GC I've ever seen" and that he "really connected with me and where I am professionally." Mr. Ebner shared his diverse history with ExxonMobil and explained how his rise to the GC position included luck, hard work, and a willingness to accept opportunities that often took him out of his comfort zone and on a career path he had not anticipated when he started out as a litigator. Mr. Ebner encouraged the attendees to be willing to diversify, to step outside of their comfort zones, and to accept new challenges and opportunities.

Friday afternoon featured two rooms of programs, with one room focused on MCLE, including a program on upstream acquisitions, international negotiations and arbitrations, coastal erosion litigation, and a mineral title update. The other room featured a cybersecurity ethics session and professional development programming on networking, managing employees and projects, and achieving your career goals. These sessions featured outstanding presentations from attorneys from ExxonMobil, Chevron, Baker Hughes, Newfield Exploration, and leading energy law firms.

That evening the group headed to Bourbon Street for more fun, with a private suite and balcony at Bourbon Vieux. The event featured outstanding jambalaya, refreshments and live entertainment. Attendees were also able to step out onto a large balcony to socialize with other attendees and to people-watch over Bourbon Street on a Friday night.

After an enjoyable Friday night, attendees came back together early Saturday morning for some hot breakfast and more great programs on regulations, an energy law roundup of cases around the country, and an ethics presentation.

The conference was a great success with attendees saying they loved the “diversity of topics and speakers,” “meeting people in my peer group,” the “great networking opportunities,” meeting “their peers” or other “young professionals,” and the wide range of in-house speakers and attendees.

Given the success of the conference and the recommendation that IEL host the conference again in New Orleans, the 2<sup>nd</sup> National YEP Law Conference will be in New Orleans again in the spring of 2018. The date will be announced as soon as the hotel is contracted, so check back on our website periodically. If you are interested in helping to plan the conference, please express that interest by email to Vickie Adams at [vadams@cailaw.org](mailto:vadams@cailaw.org).

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

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IEL is excited to welcome several new members from every membership level. We hope you will welcome our new Advisory Board Members and Young Energy Professionals and encourage them to get involved with our organization!

#### **Sustaining Members:**

- **Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP**, Fort Worth, Texas, with William B. Burford, Aimee W. Hebert, William Kerr, Loulan J. Pitre, Jr., Todd W. Spake, Carl von Merz, Jr., Kelly Ransom and Clark Rucker as Advisory Board Representatives.
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- **Ahmadu Zubairu** (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, Abuja, FC, Nigeria)

#### **Law School Members:**

- **Penn State Law**, University Park, Pennsylvania, with Professor Ross Pifer as the Advisory Board Representative.
- **West Virginia University College of Law**, Morgantown, West Virginia, with Professor Joshua Fershee as the Advisory Board Representative.

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- Associates, Jos, Nigeria)
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- **Matthew Sampson** (Steptoe & Johnson , PLLC, The Woodlands, Texas)
- **Brooke Sizer** (Gray Reed & McGraw, P.C., Houston, Texas)

### Calendar of Events

[4th Mergers, Acquisitions & Divestitures Conference](#)

Houston, TX  
May 18-19,  
2017

[Basics of Oil and Gas Production \(Upstream\)](#)

Live Webinar  
May 24, 2017

[4th Appalachia YEP General Counsel Forum](#)

Pittsburgh, PA  
May 25, 2017

[6th IEL-SEERIL International Oil & Gas Law Conference](#)

London, UK  
June 21-23,  
2017

[8th Law of Shale Plays Conference](#)

Pittsburgh, PA  
Sept 6-7, 2017

[10th Annual YEP General Counsel Forum](#)

Houston, TX  
Sept 28, 2017



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