



# Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law

## THE DRILL • December 2008

The TJOGEL staff is pleased to announce that Issue 4:1 of the Journal is off to the printers! Subscribers and sponsors will receive their copies in mid-January. The staff has been hard at work this semester in order to publish a superior journal along with hosting numerous events for staff and society members including the Back to School Happy Hour, the Career Panel, and two Roundtable Luncheons. The goal set by Journal leadership this year was to make the transition from a young journal to an established institution. We feel we have worked hard to achieve this goal thus far this year, and we thank all of our supporters for their role in our success.



### The Main Event

**Roundtable Luncheon with Brian Sullivan:** The second roundtable luncheon of the year featured Brian Sullivan of Austin-based McElroy, Sullivan, & Miller, LLP. After receiving his undergraduate degree from UT, Mr. Sullivan was the only Petroleum Engineer in the country to enroll in law school the year he entered the University of Texas School of Law. He began working as a Hearings Examiner for the Texas Railroad Commission straight out of law school. This opportunity gave Mr. Sullivan enormous responsibility as a beginning lawyer and provided him with valuable insight into litigating before the agency—a tool he continues to use. He highly recommended working for such agencies as the Railroad Commission or General Land Office for hands-on experience as a young attorney and as a way to immerse oneself in the oil, gas, and energy industry. Mr. Sullivan provided everyone in attendance with insight into a traditional oil and gas law practice in Texas and advice on how to succeed in our future careers.

### Dates to Remember

- January 22-23, 2009 – Annual Symposium at the Thompson Conference Center
- January 22, 2009 – Annual Banquet at UT Club
- February 5, 2009 – Winter Happy Hour and 4:1 Release Party
- February 26, 2009 – Roundtable Luncheon featuring Charles Matthews at UT Law School

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### Articles to Look For

**Texas Energy Sector Update: Red Hot Activity That Just Keeps Going and Going and Going:** Texas Railroad Commissioner Victor G. Carrillo's recent developments article is designed to give the reader an insight into the new level of activity that the Railroad Commission is experiencing, as well as the resulting challenges and potential solutions. The Commissioner's report provides an overview of his observations of the oil sector in the two decades since the Oil Crash of 1986, with prices rising from \$10 a barrel to a remarkable peak price of over \$147 per barrel in the summer of 2008.

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### Annual Symposium

**The Upcoming Event:** Please mark your calendars for TJOGEL's annual spring symposium hosted January 22-23, 2009 at the [Thompson Conference Center](#) on the University of Texas campus. This year's speakers include **Dick Watt** of Watt Beckworth Thompson & Henneman, **Darrick Eugene** of Vinson & Elkins, **Philip Peacock** or **Heather McLemore** of Andrews Kurth, **Jeff King** of K&L Gates, **Alan Baden** or **Jim Price** of Vinson & Elkins, **Professor John Dzienkowski** of the University of Texas School of Law, **Professor Todd Arbogast** of The University of Houston Law Center, **Marianne Carroll** of Brown McCarroll, **Diana Liebmann** of Haynes & Boone, and **Flip Whitworth** of Scott, Douglass & McConnico. Also, **Martin Garza** of K&L Gates and **Bryn Meredith** of Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla & Elm will participate in a panel discussion on urban drilling. Attendees can earn up to

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Elam will participate in a panel discussion on urban drilling. Attendees can earn up to 12 hours of CLE credit including 1 hour of ethics credit. While attendance at the symposium is free of charge, we request that all attendees register by contacting Symposium Director Tyler Branson at [symposium@tjogel.org](mailto:symposium@tjogel.org).

[VISIT THE SYMPOSIUM WEBSITE](#)

## Meet the Board



**David F. Irwin, Chief Articles Editor:** David Irwin is this year's Chief Articles Editor and served the Journal last year as an Associate Editor. While in law school, David has interned for the Honorable Andrew S. Hanen of the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas and for the Rentfro Faulk Law firm in Brownsville, Texas. He has also worked as a student attorney for the Criminal Defense Clinic and interned for the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution and the Travis County Attorney's Office, all in Austin, Texas. Before attending law school, he graduated from the University of Texas with a B.A. in Government in 2006. David became interested in oil and gas through many of his family members who have worked for the Gulf Oil Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas.



**Olga V. Kobzar, Director of Submissions:** Olga Kobzar, the 2008-09 TJOJEL Director of Submissions, is originally from Astrakhan, Russia, near the Caspian Sea. She came to the United States to attend college and liked Texas so much that she decided to stay here permanently. Olga holds Bachelor's and MBA degrees from Texas Tech University and has worked as a marketing specialist for the Austin American Statesman and as a paralegal for Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld before attending law school. She developed an interest in energy law growing up in the area of Russia well-known for oil and gas exploration and doing foreign language translations that allowed her to learn exciting terms like "permeability and porosity of soil."

Please send questions or comments to [info@tjogel.org](mailto:info@tjogel.org) or visit our website at [www.tjogel.org](http://www.tjogel.org).

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