



While students are just getting into the swing of spring classes, the TJOEGL staff is already working at full force to make this semester great. One of our first tasks for February is to celebrate the release of Volume 4:1 of the Journal and to welcome nineteen new editors to our staff by hosting a Happy Hour on February 12th at the Thistle Café in Austin. Our new editors were selected through TJOEGL's own spring write-on process. We are also excited to host for the first time a 1L Career Advice Panel in which members of our board will give first-year students perspectives on a variety of jobs, internships, and other opportunities to make the most of their 1L summer. Finally, we have an impressive line-up of upcoming roundtable luncheons this spring including Charles Matthews of Exxon Mobil, Becky Miller of Scott Douglass & McConnico, and Ted Matula of Duke Energy. As always, we thank all our sponsors, subscribers, and staff as our success is a direct result of your support.



Mr. Bledsoe is pictured center with Editor-in-Chief Becky Diffen, left, and Managing Editor Billie Ann Maxwell, right.



The Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award

TJOEGL is pleased to announce **Mr. Robert C. Bledsoe** as the 2009 recipient of the Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award! Mr. Bledsoe was honored by over 100 attorneys and students who attended the Annual Banquet on Thursday, January 22. Among those present were many members of Mr. Bledsoe's family and his colleagues at Cotton Bledsoe, along with the Dean of the Law School Larry Sager, the award's namesake Professor Ernest E. Smith, Railroad Commissioners Victor Carrillo and Elizabeth Ames Jones, and several members of the TJOEGL Board of Advisors. We would like to thank Mr. Bledsoe and his family for attending the banquet and taking the time to celebrate with our Journal members.

Mr. Bledsoe graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1955 and has since practiced oil and gas law for over 50 years. He is a founding partner of Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson, PC in Midland, TX and has long been recognized by his peers as one of the premier oil and gas practitioners in the country.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented each year to a prominent attorney in the energy industry. The award is named after Professor Ernest E. Smith, the Rex G. Baker Centennial Chair in Natural Resources Law at the Law School and the preeminent specialist in the oil, gas, and energy law. For the complete press release, [click here](#).

2009 Oil, Gas, & Energy Law Symposium

The 2009 Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Symposium, held Thursday and Friday, January 22-23, was the most successful Symposium in TJOEGL history. The main reason for the success of the Symposium was our outstanding line-up of speakers—some of the most prominent attorneys and professors in Texas—who covered a wide array of oil, gas, and energy law topics. Approximately 120 people attended the Symposium over the course of two days, including nearly 90 attorneys from all over the state of Texas. The Symposium also drew students not just from the Journal and the Oil & Gas Law Society, but also other law students, engineering students, and pre-law undergraduates. For more on this year's Symposium, and to view materials on each speaker's presentation, [click here](#). Also, look for many of these papers to be published in Volume 4:2. Finally, keep your calendars marked

Dates to Remember

- February 11 – 1L Career Advice Panel
- February 12 – Winter Happy Hour:
Volume 4:1 Release Party & Welcome to New Staff
- February 26 – Roundtable Luncheon featuring Charles Matthews
- March 5 – Roundtable Luncheon featuring Becky Miller
- April 9 – Roundtable Luncheon featuring

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Articles to Look For

A Primer on the Oil & Gas Law in the Marcellus Shale States: Written by Jeffrey C. King and George A. Bibikos of K&L Gates, this timely article discusses how the courts in the Marcellus Shale states have decided the core issues in lessor-lessee relationships (namely interests, duties, and royalties), with a particular emphasis on Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and New York. The authors also identify unresolved issues in these states that may be decided through litigation (or in some cases legislative initiatives).

Project Financing and Political Risk Mitigation: The Singular Case of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline: Stephen V. Arbogast's article provides an excellent discussion of the different ways in which project financing can be used to mitigate contract political risk and the reasons why the involvement of entities like the World Bank is useful in risky circumstances. The paper then provides a detailed analysis of the Chad-Cameroon case and makes an assessment of the contract risk mitigation benefits delivered to the project sponsors by the Bank's presence in the financing.

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Symposium attendees, pictured left, and board members working at the Symposium, right.

Congratulations to this year's
Editor of the Year Award recipient:
J. Austin Barton!

Meet the Board



Jeremy J. Doane, Recent Developments Editor: Jeremy, a second-year student, has a B.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College and a M.A. in Latin American Politics and International Finance from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Prior to law school he worked as a government affairs and political risk analyst for Pioneer Natural Resources, a large independent oil and gas company in Dallas, and as an account executive with Public Strategies, Inc., a government affairs firm in Austin. He first became interested in the oil and gas industry because of the unique legal and political challenges that it presents to companies who invest in projects abroad. He plans to do international transactional work and will be working with Linklaters in New York this summer.



John Benjamin Black, Co-Director of Development: Ben Black, also a second-year student, is this year's Co-Director of Development. Ben graduated from the University of Texas in 2003 and double-majored in History and Government. An Austin native, he is an avid UT football fan



and double majored in History and Government. An Austin native, he is an avid UT football fan and also enjoys barbecuing and golfing in his free time. Ben hopes to do work in oil and gas litigation.

Please send questions or comments to info@tjogel.org or visit our website at www.tjogel.org.

University of Texas School of Law, 727 East Dean Keeton Street, Austin, Texas 78705