



Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law

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After all of the fall's hard work, Volume 4:1 of the Journal has arrived! Those who have subscribed should be receiving their copy of the Journal in the next few days if it hasn't arrived already. The TJOGEL staff is now gearing up for a busy and successful spring semester. The Annual Symposium and Banquet are this week, and record attendance is expected at both events. We will also hold our spring write-on the first week of school to give 1L, 2L, and LLM students the opportunity to join our Journal. The board is busy organizing the rest of the semester's events including a Winter Happy Hour and several more roundtable luncheons. Finally, editors are ready to get back to work as we begin preparing Volume 4:2—a jam packed issue that will include several articles written by symposium speakers.



The Main Event

TJOGEL is proud to present the 2009 Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Symposium at the Thompson Conference Center on the University of Texas campus. The Symposium is the Journal's largest event each year, and this year we expect record attendance due to the outstanding slate of speakers. Attendees can earn 11 hours of CLE credit, which includes 1 hour of ethics credit. The Symposium will cover a wide array of cutting-edge energy law topics ranging from a panel discussion on urban drilling to an update on the Texas electric market, and including discussions of the impact of both recent case law in Texas and SEC rulings affecting the energy industry. New technologies such as carbon sequestration will be covered along with a presentation on the CREZ process affecting the wind industry. For more information please visit our [Symposium website](#).

Dates to Remember

- January 22-23 – Annual Symposium at the Thompson Conference Center
- January 22 – Annual Banquet at the UT Club
- February 4 – 1L Career Advice Panel
- February 12 – Winter Happy Hour and 4:1 Release Party
- February 26 – Roundtable Luncheon featuring Charles Matthews

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Articles to Look For

Why Are Developers Powerless to Develop Ocean Power?: This article, written by Sarah McQuillen Tran, addresses the heated dispute between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Mineral Mining Service (MMS) regarding jurisdiction over wave, tidal, and ocean current projects located three to twelve nautical miles from the shore. Ms. Tran surveys the legal and practical consequences that will result from the designation of a lead regulatory administrator and analyzes how the relative capabilities of FERC and MMS can resolve the issue in a manner that will finally enable the hydrokinetics industry to flourish and provide energy to the U.S. grid.

Renewable Transportation Fuel: A Counterintuitive Windfall to the Oil Industry: Evan Turgeon's article on renewable transportation fuels reviews recent government initiatives heavily promoting non-petroleum "biofuels" (such as the Renewable Fuel Standards program). These programs have caused the oil industry great concern, prompting Texas governor Rick Perry to request a waiver for the state. The author however, argues that the efforts to promote biofuels may provide the oil industry counterintuitive but significant economic and strategic benefits, and it outlines the interdependencies on which these benefits may depend.

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Annual Banquet

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On January 22, 2009, TJOGEEL will host its Annual Banquet at the UT Club following the day's Symposium activities. The Banquet honors our staff, including the naming of Editor of the Year, and all of our supporters. We are also proud to present the 2009 Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award to **Mr. Robert C. Bledsoe**, a founding partner of Midland, Texas firm Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson, PC.

Meet the Board



Tyler S. Branson, Symposium Coordinator: Tyler Branson is a second-year law student and this year's Symposium Coordinator. Tyler graduated from Texas Christian University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and History. Upon entering law school he became interested in oil and gas law because of its importance to the Texas economy. As symposium director, Tyler has worked closely with other members of TJOGEEL to formulate a plan of action to attract the highest profile speakers to the event in order to increase the visibility and importance of the annual event and subsequently the Journal itself. Tyler plans on working in the corporate department of a large firm upon graduation with a directed interest in capital markets and securities as well as project finance and development.



Jimmy J. Elskes, Co-Director of Development: Jimmy Elskes is also a second-year law student and this year's Co-Director of Development. Jimmy graduated from Southern Methodist University in 2007 and double-majored in Foreign Language and Literature and Business. Jimmy is interested in oil and gas work in both the United States and in Latin America. He will spend next fall studying abroad in Argentina.

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

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