



Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law

THE DRILL • November 2008

TJOGEL staff members are preparing to buckle-down for finals, and Issue 4:1 of the Journal will be off to the printer in a few weeks. The TJOGEL Board is very proud of its staff for the hard work that has been put into this school year. Two founding members of the Journal, Cynthia Redwine and Brandon Seale, were in attendance at this year's Board of Advisors dinner, and they served as a reminder of how far this prominent Journal has come in just a few short years — thanks to the hard work of students, alumni, and all those who support the Journal. We look forward to continuing to help the journal grow.



The Main Event

Energy Law Career Panel: At a time of year when 3Ls are committing to permanent job offers, 2Ls are accepting summer associate positions, and 1Ls are just beginning to explore career opportunities, TJOGEL presented its annual Energy Law Career Panel to over forty students. Editor-in-Chief Becky Diffen moderated the event and asked the panelists questions about their background and experiences in energy. In addition to sharing their own experiences, the panelists offered advice on future energy law careers, and legal careers in general, especially in light of the current economic situation. Moral of the story: students, take bankruptcy law! The panel was followed by a reception where students interacted with the attorneys one-on-one.

This year's panelists included **Tim Gehl**, senior counsel at Shell Oil; **Jay Kelley**, a partner at Vinson & Elkins and member of the TJOGEL Board of Advisors; **J.J. McAnelly**, a partner at Bracewell & Giuliani and also a member of the Board of Advisors; **Polly McDonald**, Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director, Special Counsel, in the Office of General Counsel at the Texas Railroad Commission; **Cynthia Redwine**, an associate at Vinson & Elkins and one of the founders of the Journal; and **Brent Stahl**, founding partner of Stahl, Bernal & Davies. We would also like to thank Board of Advisors members David Patton of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell in Houston and Robert C. Grable of Kelly Hart & Hallman in Ft. Worth for joining the editorial board for dinner after the panel.

Dates to Remember

- November 3, 2008 — Roundtable Luncheon featuring Brian Sullivan at UT Law School
- January 22-23, 2009 — Annual Symposium at the Thompson Conference Center
- January 22, 2009 — Annual Banquet at UT Club
- February 26, 2009 — Roundtable Luncheon featuring Charles Matthews at UT Law School

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Articles to Look For

Signs of Pending Liberalization in China's Oil Sector: Steve Zhang and Paul Saydak, attorneys in the Beijing office of Lovells, have written an article on the trend towards relaxation of import, refining, and pricing restrictions with respect to China's oil sector. This article focuses on recent developments in the law and familiarizes its readers with the key government players, current Chinese legal structure, and how Beijing protects its oil industry. The authors explain the legal environment in which both refined and crude oil, as well as subsequent refining and pricing, is managed, describe the recent movements towards liberalization, and point to additional changes that are forthcoming.

An Empirical Analysis of State Ethanol Production Incentives: Do They Work? Mr. Pablo Ormachea's article examines how, or even whether, state production incentives have a demonstrable impact on the state's ethanol production capacity. The article is an empirical research project that attempts to answer that question by creating

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an original database about state ethanol incentives and production totals from 2002 to 2007. The article begins by recounting the beneficial treatment ethanol has received in recent U.S. history, evaluates its findings, and asks whether any state ethanol production incentive is worth the cost. Mr. Ormachea is an associate at Susman Godfrey in Houston.

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Annual Symposium

The Upcoming Event: Please mark your calendars for TJOJEL's annual spring symposium hosted January 22-23, 2009 at the [Thompson Conference Center](#) on the University of Texas campus. All are welcome, and those in attendance will hear presentations on a wide variety of the latest and most interesting topics in energy law including urban drilling, new developments in energy transactions, and regulatory updates. 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. For more information, visit www.tjogel.org/symposium_2009.

Meet the Board



Austin T. Lee, Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Austin Lee currently serves the Journal as Chief Financial Officer and has previously served as the 2007-2008 Director of Development. He works closely with the Journal's current co-directors of development, Ben Black and Jimmy Elskes, and with Treasurer Atman Shukla. Austin earned his BBA and MPA in Accounting from the University of Texas in 2004. He has worked as a CPA, specializing in tax issues for pass-through entities and individuals, and also as a landman for Chesapeake Energy in East Texas. His interest in the energy field stems not just from his experience as a landman but also from the great people in the industry he has met. Austin has accepted a position in the Energy, Finance, Infrastructure, and Real Estate section at Bracewell & Giuliani in Houston.



Lauren E. Sutterfield, Director of Public Relations: Ms. Lauren Sutterfield is in charge of all public relations for the Journal as well as the Oil & Gas Law Society. Before law school, Lauren worked for the Texas Association of Builders as the government affairs assistant. She graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2006 where she earned her BA in International Relations and Diplomacy and wrote her senior thesis on United States oil dependency and foreign policy. During undergrad, Lauren spent a semester at the State Department in Washington, DC interning for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of International Security Operations. Lauren will work for the Texas Oil and Gas Association as a legal intern during the spring legislative session.

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

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