Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law

THE DRILL • September 2008

The 2008-2009 Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law is pleased to present you with the first edition of The Drill. We hope this monthly newsletter will be a quick and easy way to keep you informed of all the exciting progress and events that are taking place within the Journal. TJOGEL is the first and only entirely student-edited journal in the country focusing exclusively on energy law. In only its fourth year of publication, the Journal has one of the widest circulations in the country. Members of TJOGEL, past and present, are proud to publish a quality journal product. With your help and continued support, we are looking forward to continuing the growth and success of this prominent publication.

The Main Event

Back-to-School Happy Hour—On Wednesday, September 3, TJOGEL hosted its annual Back-to-School Happy Hour at the Brown Bar in downtown Austin. This year's event had one of the largest turnouts so far—over 50 attendees! Current and former TJOGEL board and staff members attended, along with the newest members of the journal family—first year students who have joined the Oil and Gas Law Society. Several prominent attorneys in the energy industry were also in attendance, including Mr. David Patton, chair of the Energy group at Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, and Mr. James (J.J.) McAnelly, partner at Bracewell & Giuliani, both of whom are on the TJOGEL Board of Advisors. TJOGEL would like to thank all those who took the time to help start the school year off right and would like to send a special thanks to Bracewell & Giuliani for sponsoring the event.

Dates to Remember

- **September 29, 2008 — Roundtable Luncheon featuring Gary D. Compton at UT Law School**
- **October 23, 2008 — Career Panel at UT Law School**
- **October 23, 2008 — Board of Advisors Dinner at UT Club**
- **January 22-23, 2009 — Symposium at Thompson Conference Center**
- **January 22, 2009 — Banquet at UT Club**

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Articles to Look For

Arbitration of Venezuelan Oil Contracts: A Losing Strategy. In her article, author Emily Witten discusses whether arbitration clauses really provide investors security and certainty on which they can rely. Her analysis includes many legal and business issues in the context of Chavez/Venezuela's breach of petroleum contracts, such as international arbitration, sovereign power, and the recent Supreme Court case *Medellin v. Texas*. Witten graduated from Harvard Law School in 2008 and is an associate with Thompson & Knight.

Social and Regulatory Control of Wind Energy — An Empirical Survey of Texas and Kansas. Ryan Trahan's student note discusses landowners and land use, wind development, and utilities in both Texas and Kansas. Trahan's data comes from numerous interviews with actual participants in the various areas of wind energy development. From his research, Trahan offers his own perspective for future wind development. Trahan is a Tom C. Clark Fellow and a 2009 J.D. candidate at the University of Texas School of Law.

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New Member Welcome

David Patton—TJOGEL would like to extend a sincere welcome to Mr. David Patton, chair of the Energy group at Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, and newest addition to the Journal's Board of Advisors. David Patton earned his B.A. from the University of Texas and his J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center. He

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addition to the Journal's Board of Advisors. David Patton earned his B.A. from the University of Texas and his J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center. He has over 30 years experience in the oil and gas industry. The Board of Advisors helps promote the Journal and offers guidance and support to the Journal board and staff.

Texas Oil & Gas Law Society– Approximately thirty first year law students have joined the Texas Oil & Gas Law Society. The Society allows any student who wants to join to attend Journal events such as the annual Back to School Happy Hour, Career Panel, Roundtable Luncheons, and Symposium. The Society is especially advantageous for first year students as it is their first chance to learn about the Journal and the energy industry. TJOGEL is the only journal at the University of Texas School of Law to offer the society program to future journal members.

Meet the Board

Becky H. Diffen, Editor in Chief: Please welcome Becky Diffen as the 2008-2009 Editor-in-Chief. Becky was the Assistant Managing Editor of the Journal for 2007-2008 and published the student note in Volume 3.2. Before law school, Becky was Development Manager for Cielo Wind Power where she helped develop wind farms in West Texas and New Mexico, including the 160 MW Wildorado Wind Ranch™ in the Texas Panhandle. Before that, she graduated from Carleton College in 2004 where she studied computer science, political economy, and Latin American studies and was a member of the softball team. Becky loves spending time with her husband Daniel, a high school Spanish teacher in Austin, cheering on the Longhorns, playing softball and golf, and performing with the Austin Handbell Ensemble. Becky has shown tremendous leadership for the Journal as Editor-in-Chief and has accepted a position with the Vinson and Elkins transactional group.

Dane A. Johnson, Director of Current Events: Dane A. Johnson, a second year student, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007 with his B.A. in Economics. Growing up in Houston, Dane gained a great interest in the energy field from the city's deep connection to the industry. His mother staffs complex engineering advisor jobs in exotic locales for large oil and oil field services companies. His grandfather was a lifer with Halliburton, working in Northern Canada, West Texas, and wildcatting all over South America. Out of high school, Dane worked for Kirby Inland Marine as a barge tankerman and later as a tankerman coordinator moving chemicals and petroleum products by barge up and down the Intercoastal Waterway.