

Mineral Title Examination
Energy & Mineral Law Foundation

William H. Barr, III

Bill Barr is Vice President of NGAS Resources, Inc., (NASDAQ National Market: NGAS), an Appalachian-based exploration and production company headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1993, Bill joined Daugherty Petroleum, the operation's subsidiary of NGAS, and, after serving as Vice President – Acquisitions and Legal Affairs, he assumed the duties of Chief Executive Officer in 2005. He has 30 years experience in the corporate and legal sectors of the oil and gas industry. Bill currently serves as Governing Member Trustee for the Kentucky Oil & Gas Association on the Board of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation. He also serves as President-elect and on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Oil and Gas Association (“KOGA”) and as Chairman of its Legislative Committee. Bill also serves as Vice Chairman of the Kentucky Gas Pipeline Authority. He received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Kentucky in 1975. Bill, his wife, Carrie, and their four-year-old son, Garrett, reside in a 1797 home in downtown Lexington.

Sean Cassidy

Sean Cassidy is a partner in the law firm of Cassidy, Kotjarapoglus & Pohland, LLC, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University, and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he served as Note Editor for the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*.

Mr. Cassidy is the author of “Title Defects and Their Cure,” *Eastern Min. L. Inst.* ch. 2 (1981), “Preparation and Use of Title Opinions,” *Eastern Min L. Inst.* ch. 6 (1985), “Title Failure,” *Eastern Min. L. Inst.* ch. 11 (1990) and “Horizontal Division of Oil and Gas Leaseholds,” *Eastern Min. L. Inst.* ch. 20. (1994). He is the author of *Oil and Gas Lease Negotiations*, published as part of the Audioline Series of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and is a contributing author for *The American Law of Mining*, Second Edition, published by Matthew Bender & Co., Inc.

Mr. Cassidy is a Trustee of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, formerly known as the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation, and previously served as President of the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation from 1990 to 1991.

Mr. Cassidy is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Westmoreland County Bar Association. Mr. Cassidy has been the recipient of a Pro Bono Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association and in 2003 was named the Westmoreland County Bar Association “Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year.”

Donald J. Epperly

Don Epperly is a Member of the firm of Steptoe & Johnson in the Clarksburg, WV office, where his areas of concentration are creditor's rights, real estate, and commercial transactions. Mr. Epperly graduated *cum laude* from Marshall University with a degree in Finance, and received his legal education at West Virginia University College of Law. Prior to his employment with Steptoe & Johnson, Mr. Epperly served as law clerk to the Honorable L. Edward Friend, II, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia.

Natalie L. Jefferis

Natalie N. Jefferis (formerly Natalie Anderson) is a Landman for Equitable Production Company in its Charleston, West Virginia office. She currently oversees the Virginia title program and is responsible for clearing title for both conventional and coalbed methane wells. She joined Equitable in March of this year after working as an associate at Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love, LLP in their Charleston office. While at Bowles Rice, Natalie was an associate in the Energy Group. She focused her practice on coal, oil and gas contracts, oil and gas litigation and arbitration and commercial real estate transactions.

Natalie earned her law degree from West Virginia University College of Law in 2002. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Fairmont State College. She is a member of the West Virginia State Bar, the American Bar Association and Energy & Mineral Law Foundation. Natalie is an active member of the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation and served on the 2005 Strategic Planning Committee and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for EMLF.

Natalie is admitted to practice in the state of West Virginia and before the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. She is a title Agent for the Stewart Title Insurance, Lawyer's Title and Old Republic National Title Insurance Company.

James Kaiser**Timothy Lowe**

Timothy Lowe is a partner in the firm of Penn, Stuart & Eskridge in Bristol, Tennessee, Tim represents clients in energy, transactional and general corporate law. Before joining Penn Stuart he was in private practice for ten years. His firm, Timothy K. Lowe, P.C., focused on the representation of companies in coal, oil and gas matters and energy transactional matters. Prior to going into private practice, Tim served as Senior Vice President and Corporate Counsel for AMVEST Corporation for fourteen years. His responsibilities included managing the oil, gas and land operations, corporate legal affairs and coordination of acquisitions. This provided Tim with a broad range of experience and knowledge in coal, oil and gas transactional law for the energy industry.

Tim graduated from Morehead State University in Kentucky with a B.A. Degree, with high distinction and was a member of Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi

Honor Society and was selected Outstanding Political Science Student. Tim received his law degree from the University of Kentucky in 1979 and is licensed to practice law in Tennessee and Kentucky.

John E. Rhine

John E. Rhine is a partner in Rhine, Ernest & Vargo, a firm which focuses on energy law. It has offices in Evansville, Indiana, and Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

Mr. Rhine has 28 years experience in energy industry law practice and a large part of that practice was providing mineral title opinions to operators, reserve holding companies, crude oil purchasers and lenders. His mineral opinions have included acquisition opinions, mining authority opinions, pre-drill opinions, pipeline opinions, reserve title due diligence and reserve wide analysis capstone opinions. He is currently authorized to write title insurance policies on coal reserves in Illinois and Indiana. He has litigated various mineral title questions and has testified as an expert witness on interpretation of coal leases.

Mr. Rhine's reported court successes include cases critical to coal reserve title: *Arclar Company v. Gates*, 17 F. Supp. 2d 818 (1998), (ancient grants of appurtenant mining rights, including right to purchase surface, remain valid and enforceable in modern times); *Rocking M. Ranch, Inc. v. Sahara Coal Co.*, 576 N.E.2d 1120, (ancient subsidence waivers remain enforceable post-SMCRA) and *Continental Illinois Resources v. Illinois Methane*, 364 Ill. App.3d 691, 847 N.E.2d 897, 301 Ill. Dec. 887 (2006), (coalbed methane belongs to the coal estate). He has published a brief history of coal mining in the Illinois Basin discussing the relevance of historical coal mining practices to enforcement of modern producer's mining rights. *Practicing in the Past, Today*, ISBA Mineral Law, Vol. 24, No. 2, November, 1977.

Mr. Rhine received his law degree from the University of Illinois (J.D., *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, 1977) and is admitted to the bar in Illinois, Indiana, the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois and Central District of Illinois, and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit. He attended Southern Illinois University (B.A., 1974).

He served as law clerk to Justice Robert C. Underwood, Illinois Supreme Court, 1977-1978 and was Special Assistant Attorney General, 1980-1983. He served as Visiting Professor of Law, Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO), 1993, 1995.

Mr. Rhine is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association (Delegate: Mineral Law Section Council, 1993-, Chairman 1999-2000; Law Office Economics Section Council, 1986-1993), Indiana State Bar Association, Energy and Mineral Law Foundation, and Tri-State Landman's Association.

He is currently a member of the board of directors of an Illinois Basin coal operator and has served as acting general counsel for another coal company. He is a member of the

board of directors of Voices for Illinois Children, a children's advocacy group, and served as chairman, 1993-96.

Russell L. Schetroma

Russell L. Schetroma is a shareholder and director in Culbertson, Weiss, Schetroma and Schug, P.C., a regional Pennsylvania law firm with offices and facilities in Meadville, Erie, Titusville and Pittsburgh. He chairs the firm's business practice group.

Mr. Schetroma received his Juris Doctor *cum laude* from the Dickinson School of Law. He is a member of the American, Pennsylvania and Crawford County Bar Associations and is a past president of the Crawford County Bar Association. He currently chairs the Land Title Standards Committee of the Crawford County Bar Association. He serves the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a hearing board member in lawyer disciplinary matters. He has directed his firm's work as solicitors for the City of Meadville since 1975.

Mr. Schetroma has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Bar Association with its award for "outstanding contributions to the *pro bono* service in Pennsylvania" and the by the Eastern (now Energy &) Mineral Law Foundation's President's Award in recognition of his effort to develop a comprehensive index to the published works of that Foundation. In 2005 he was named a "Pennsylvania Super-Lawyer" by *Law & Politics/Philadelphia* magazine.

Mr. Schetroma has been awarded a certificate in East/West Law and Relations by the McGeorge School of Law of the University of the Pacific, after completing a course of study conducted in coordination with the Austro-American Institute of Education in Vienna, Austria and with the law faculty of Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest, Hungary. He has also been awarded a certificate by Edinboro University evidencing his completion of its introductory course in Mandarin Chinese. He holds certificates from the Harvard Law School evidencing completion of its Programs of Instruction for Lawyers in Negotiation and Mediation.

Mr. Schetroma has participated in and lectured at many continuing legal education and trade association programs. He publishes and lectures extensively on topics related to oil and gas law, land title law, issues related to forming and counseling small businesses, legal ethics, international trade law, municipal law and negotiation theory.

Davin L. Seamon

Davin L. Seamon is a senior associate at the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, and works out of the firm's Clarksburg office. He concentrates his practice primarily in real estate transactions, mineral law, commercial transactions, business formation and governance, intellectual property, and e-commerce and technology law. Mr. Seamon works in many aspects of real estate law including commercial real estate closings, commercial leasing, complex multi-tract transactions, title insurance, and mineral ownership and development. His experience runs the gamut from assisting single families in purchasing their first home to helping large developers acquire thousands of

acres comprised of hundreds of individual parcels; from helping local businesses sell their assets to assisting large publishing clients in acquiring additional mastheads and other assets. Mr. Seamon is a member of the Harrison County and American Bar Associations, and the West Virginia State Bar. He received his B.A. from West Virginia University and his J.D. from The George Washington University Law School.

Leslie Miller- Stover

Leslie Miller-Stover received her law degree in 2001 from West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, where she graduated as a member of the Order of the Coif. Ms. Miller-Stover has a Master of Business Administration which she received from West Virginia University in 1993. She also graduated from West Virginia University in 1992, Magna Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

Following law school in 2001, Ms. Miller-Stover joined Steptoe & Johnson PLLC and practiced in the firm's Charleston, West Virginia office. Ms. Miller-Stover concentrated her practice in the area of commercial transactions, commercial real estate, mineral law, and bankruptcy-debtor/creditor relations.

At Steptoe & Johnson, Ms. Miller-Stover's practice encompassed drafting mineral and commercial leases, transactional documents for mineral estates and appurtenances, mineral title opinions, commercial real estate agreements, and title insurance documents. Additionally, she represented creditors and the bankruptcy trustee in personal and commercial bankruptcies, drafted commercial loan documents and other agreements for banking institutions, and organized business entities. In early 2006, Ms. Miller-Stover joined Equitable Production Company in its Charleston office as a landman responsible for clearing title for the West Virginia Development Team.

Ms. Miller-Stover, prior to attending law school, worked in Charleston, West Virginia as an account executive and later as an account manager for the health maintenance organization, Carelink Health Plans.

Anthony Wilhoit