



2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT



The Oil and Gas Law Center's mission is to provide course offerings and extracurricular activities that assist students in becoming proficient oil and gas lawyers.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Washburn Students Study All Aspects of Oil and Gas Law

To be an effective oil and gas lawyer requires knowledge in a number of disciplines. Washburn Law has assembled a faculty and curriculum to help prepare students to become effective oil and gas lawyers. The following core courses are taught by four full-time faculty members (David Pierce, Freddy Sourgens, Burke Griggs, and Myrl Duncan) and Adjunct Professor Leland Rolfs:

- Oil and Gas Law (LW 740)
- Advanced Oil and Gas Law (LW 855)
- Mineral Title Examination (LW 952)
- Oil and Gas Conservation Law and Practice (LW 966)
- Environmental Regulation of the Oil and Gas Industry (LW 967)
- Oil and Gas Taxation (LW 968)
- International Petroleum Transactions (LW 973)
- International Petroleum Arbitration (LW 972)
- Independent Study in Oil and Gas Law (LW 969)
- Drafting Contracts and Conveyances (LW 946)
- Energy Regulation (LW 803)
- Mining Law (LW 977)
- Renewable Energy Law: Wind and Solar (LW 985)
- Independent Readings in Natural Resources Law (LW 826)
- Environmental Law (LW 744)
- Public Land Law (LW 747)
- Water Rights (LW 742)



In several courses, the professor is aided by practicing lawyers and technical professionals such as geologists and engineers. For example, the Oil and Gas Conservation Law and Practice course uses 30 instructors. Professor Pierce and **Ryan Hoffman, '08**, director of Conservation with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), co-organize the course.

At the conclusion of this course, students will have been taught by every person having a key regulatory position with the Commission, including the three KCC Commissioners. In addition, they will have been taught by most of the lawyers who regularly appear before the Commission.

Similar opportunities are available in the Mineral Title Examination course where practitioners, working with Professor Pierce, provide over 400 years of collective title examination experience to students.

BRUCE, '80, ADDRESSES OIL AND GAS LAW'S TOUGH TIMES



George Bruce, '80

On March 2, 2016, **George Bruce, '80**, an experienced oil executive and counsel at Martin Pringle, presented "Oil and Gas Law in Troubled Times." Bruce discussed the oil and gas industry and the many issues created by the current slump in the market. He gave students insight into the cyclical nature of the industry, and the challenges created for oil and gas operators and the lawyers who represent them.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn first-hand from someone who is not only a gifted oil and gas lawyer, but also a successful oil and gas executive," said Professor David Pierce.

Bruce also serves as chairman of the Board and CEO of Aladdin Petroleum Company; vice-chairman of the Board of Aladdin Middle East, Ltd; and CEO of Sterling CNG, LLC.

Second Houston Annual Conference: Oil and Gas Investment Arbitration



BURKE GRIGGS JOINS WASHBURN LAW

In 2016, Burke W. Griggs joined the Washburn Law faculty as a visiting professor. He teaches Oil and Gas Law, Property, Public Land Law, and Agricultural Law.

Washburn Law's International and Comparative Law Center and Oil and Gas Law Center co-organized the Second Houston Annual Conference: Oil and Gas Investment Arbitration – 40 Years of the Lex Petrolea together with the University of Houston Law Center's Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center and Georgetown University's International Law Institute. Washburn Law's Professor Freddy Sourgens served as conference co-chair.

The conference, held October 30, 2015, featured a keynote address by Professor Dr. Ahmed El-Kosheri, a senior partner of Kosheri, Rashed, and Riad (Cairo, Egypt). He formerly served as an ad hoc judge at the International Court of Justice, a member of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration, and as vice president of the International Chamber of Commerce's Court of Arbitration.

El-Kosheri is widely considered to be one of the founding fathers of international oil and gas law. He remains one of the most influential and in-demand international oil and gas arbitrators in the world.

In his lecture, El-Kosheri returned to his seminal work on international petroleum law published 40 years ago and reviewed the developments in the field in the intervening period. His experience goes from the *Aminoil v. Kuwait* case through the *ExxonMobil v. Venezuela* case, where he was one of the members of the arbitration tribunal. El-Kosheri's presentation received a standing ovation from conference participants.

The conference included panels on recent developments in international oil and gas arbitration and recent developments in international petroleum law.

Speakers included leading practitioners from East Coast and Texas law firms, as well as academics from Australia and France. The conference was sponsored by Baker & McKenzie and Mayer Brown.

Due to significant demand, the conference was webcast live via Washburn Law's CLE platform. The webcast attracted viewers from as far away as Rio de Janeiro.

Griggs will also work with the Oil and Gas Law Center, the Agricultural Law Program, and the Rural Law Practice Initiative.

Griggs has extensive practical experience in water law and has focused considerable scholarly attention on emerging water law issues. Prior to joining the faculty, he practiced water law in both the public and private sectors.

"I am honored and excited to have joined the Washburn Law faculty," said Burke Griggs. "No other faculty in the region has Washburn's commitment to natural resources law — a commitment both to the field and to preparing our students for effective practice in it."

David Pierce, director of the Oil and Gas Law Center, commented, "I have followed Burke's professional and teaching career closely and envisioned a place for him teaching natural resources law at Washburn Law and assuming a major role with Washburn's oil and gas law program. He is a wonderful addition to the faculty and to the Oil and Gas Law Center."

OGLC Active in Rural Law Practice Initiative and Washburn Law's Agricultural Law Program

Graduates that elect to practice in rural communities in Kansas often practice oil and gas law as one of many disciplines needed to represent their clients. The Oil and Gas Law Center frequently coordinates its programming so students have the opportunity to learn about related agricultural law principles. Often, the rural law context will be referenced when studying a problem.

Washburn Law's student organizations also take advantage of interdisciplinary opportunities to study oil and gas law, agricultural law, and environmental law. Frequently the Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Society will co-sponsor programs with the Agricultural Law Society and the Environmental Law Society. Students are often members of all three organizations.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE IN SQUAW VALLEY

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation scholarship recipients Brett Kvasnicka and Adam Teel attended the 62nd Annual Institute held in Squaw Valley, Calif., July 21-23, 2016. The Foundation's student scholarship recipients, who are from member law schools, also receive travel funds to attend this flagship Foundation event.

While at the Institute, Kvasnicka and Teel attended many presentations on oil and gas law, mining law, environmental law, water law, international law, and public land law. They also participated in a reception for alumni attending the Institute.

The Kansas Bar Association (KBA) recognizes the connection between oil and gas law, agricultural law, and a rural law practice. In March 2017, for the first time, the KBA's Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law Section will join with the Agricultural Law Section to present its spring program in Hays, Kan. Traditionally the Center makes it possible for many Washburn Law students to attend this program.

The Center works closely with Kansas Farm Bureau Professor of Agricultural Law and Taxation, Roger McEowen, to identify opportunities for students to learn about agricultural law and rural practice. The interdisciplinary bond between oil and gas and agriculture is strengthened further with the addition of Professor Burke Griggs, who teaches Oil and Gas Law and Agricultural Law.

Washburn Law was represented this year by three faculty members: Burke Griggs, David Pierce, and Freddy Sourgens. They each attended the Annual Trustee's Meeting and related programs.

The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation continues to be a major supporter of Washburn Law and the Oil and Gas Law Center. The Foundation provides student scholarships, student travel funds to attend Foundation events, funds to support networking opportunities, and financial support for special projects.

STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS



Brett Kvasnicka

Corey Moomaw



Luis Solorio

Adam Teel

Two national foundations that focus on natural resources law provide scholarships to students. The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation each provide scholarships, on a competitive basis, to students with a demonstrated interest in a career in natural resources law.

The 2016 Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation scholarship recipients include: Brett Kvasnicka, Corey Moomaw, and Adam Teel. The 2016 Energy and Mineral Law Foundation scholarship recipients include: Brett Kvasnicka, Corey Moomaw, Luis Solorio, and Adam Teel.

Because of Washburn's extensive curriculum and programming focusing on oil and gas law, Washburn students have consistently competed successfully for scholarship money from these foundations.

Student Symposium: A Critique of Oil and Gas Law

In 2014, Washburn Law's Oil and Gas Law Center sponsored the first of its kind Student Symposium where the lawyer audience was instructed by Washburn Law students who focused much of their law school study on oil and gas law. The 2014 Symposium entitled "Vexatious Title Issues" addressed conveyancing and other issues that impact the determination of ownership to the oil and gas resource. In 2015, the second Student Symposium, "Mysteries of the Oil and Gas Lease," addressed the document used to develop oil and gas in the United States: the oil and gas lease.

The third Student Symposium will be held at Washburn Law on March

31, 2017. The title of the Symposium is: "A Critique of Oil and Gas Law." Professor Pierce is working with his students to identify a number of oil and gas law principles that are open to challenge. Each student will have an assigned topic to prepare. For each topic, students will identify the oil and gas law principle and how it is applied, then offer an informed critique identifying how it can be improved.

The Symposium will be open to students, lawyers, landmen, and other persons interested in oil and gas law. It will be certified for CLE credit.

This event has been a valuable learning experience for students. On average,

a student will spend close to 100 hours researching his or her topic, preparing a written summary of the topic, preparing presentation materials, practicing the presentation, and presenting it on the day of the Symposium. Students participate in this event on a volunteer basis. It is the type of extracurricular learning opportunity the Center seeks to provide Washburn Law students. It is also a service to Washburn Law alumni and the practicing bar. Lawyers attending prior Symposiums have given them high marks for content and the professional and effective manner in which students presented the material.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY

The Center's programming includes many opportunities, provided at no charge to students, to study outside the classroom at special events and national institutes.

Ten students attended the 40th Annual Kansas Bar Association/ Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association Oil & Gas Conference in Wichita. This was the 25th year that students have been attending what is the premier oil and gas law continuing education event in Kansas.

Two students attended the Eugene Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy in Oklahoma City. This is the premier oil and gas law continuing education event in Oklahoma.

Recognizing the impact that designating a species as threatened or

endangered can have on oil and gas development, seven students were able to engage in intense extracurricular study of the Endangered Species Act. Supported by a grant from the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, seven students were able to fly to Colorado and attend, without cost, the Foundation's two-day special institute titled: "Endangered Species Act: Current and Emerging Issues Affecting Resource Development."

Nine students attended the Kansas Bar Association's Spring Oil and Gas Law Conference in Hays, Kan. This event also provided students with an opportunity to meet and interact with several recent Washburn Law graduates who are practicing oil and gas law in Western Kansas.

Three students attended the Hartrick Symposium on Career Paths for Young

Attorneys in the Energy Sector at the University of Oklahoma School of Law.

Two students were able to study a number of oil and gas and natural resources law topics while attending the 62nd Annual Institute of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation in Squaw Valley, Calif.

At the Law School, a number of extracurricular programs were provided to students to enhance their understanding of oil and gas law. Special programs included "Oil and Gas Law Basics," "Short Course on How to Negotiate, Document, and Administer the Purchase and Sale of Oil and Gas Assets," and a number of other topics ranging from ad valorem taxation of oil and gas properties to induced seismicity and the injection of produced water.

2015-16 Center Events



Luke Hagedorn (seated, top left) and Alan Anderson (standing, top right) from Polsinelli.



Randy Pharo (left) and Greg Danielson (right) from Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP in Denver.

September 21, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Information Meeting

October 30, 2015 – “Oil and Gas Investment Arbitrations II: Celebrating 40 Years of Lex Petrolea” at the Four Seasons Hotel, Houston, sponsored by the International and Comparative Law Center and the Oil and Gas Law Center (see page 2)

November 17, 2015 – Alan Anderson and Luke Hagedorn from Polsinelli law firm’s national energy group walked students through a wind development project from beginning to end

February 25, 2016 – Lunch & Learn on the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken and Waters of the United States Final Rule, presented by **Mike Irvin, ’86**, director and legislative Counsel of Kansas Farm Bureau's Legal Foundation, hosted by the Washburn Agricultural Law Society

February 24, 2016 – Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Society Initial Semester Lunch

March 2, 2016 – Lunch & Learn: “Oil and Gas Operations in Troubled Times” presented by **George Bruce, ’80**

April 1, 2016 – Lunch & Learn: “Preparing for the Practice of Law While in Law School” presented by Randy Pharo and Greg Danielson

April 1, 2016 – “Short Course on How to Negotiate, Document, and Administer the Purchase and Sale of Oil and Gas Assets” presented by Randy Pharo, Greg Danielson, and Professor David Pierce

April 8, 2016 – Lunch & Learn: “The Clean Power Plan” presented by Burke Griggs, sponsored jointly with the Environmental Law Society

April 13, 2016 – Lunch & Learn: “Water Rights and the Law” presented by Adjunct Professor Leland Rolfs, sponsored by the Washburn Agricultural Law Society

April 18, 2016 – Lunch & Learn: Kansas Department of Health and Environment Panel, presented by Kate Gleeson and Jennifer Hackman, sponsored jointly with the Environmental Law Society



Adjunct Professor Leland Rolfs



Students socializing after the Short Course

Faculty Scholarship and Activities



David E. Pierce, '77

Norman R. Pozez Chair in Business and Transactional Law, Professor of Law, and Director of the Oil and Gas Law Center

ARTICLES IN LAW REVIEWS

“Employing a Reservoir Community Analysis to Define and Marshal Correlative Rights in the Oil and Gas Reservoir,” 76 *Louisiana Law Review* 787 (2016).

“Developing a Correlative Rights Doctrine to Accommodate Development of Oil and Gas in Arkansas,” 68 *Arkansas Law Review* 407 (2015).

“Basic Conveyancing Principles,” 2 *Mineral Law Series: Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation*, Chapter 7, (2015).

“When the Horizontal and Vertical Collide: Frac Hits and Operator Quest for Détente in the Common Reservoir,” 61 *Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute. Proceedings*, Chapter 12-1, (2015) (with Mark D. Christiansen)

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

Co-editor, *Oil and Gas Reporter*, Volume 181 (2016) (Annual reporting on case law developments).

Co-editor, *Oil and Gas Reporter*, Volume 180 (2015) (Annual reporting on case law developments).

PRESENTATIONS

“Recent Developments in Contract and Property Law,” 2016 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, June 23, 2016.

“Issues to Consider When Pooling Oil and Gas Leases,” Kansas Next Step, 2016 Oil & Gas Seminar, Hays, Kan., April 7, 2016 (with **Leslie Rountree, '10**).

“Issues to Consider When Granting or Receiving Oil and Gas Lease Assignments,” Kansas Next Step, 2016 Oil & Gas Seminar, Hays, Kan., April 6, 2016 (with **Leslie Rountree, '10**).

“Legal Concepts Reaffirmed by *Fawcett v. Oil Producers, Inc. of Kansas*,” 2016 Spring Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law CLE, Kansas Bar Association, Hays, Kan., March 4, 2016.

“Defeasible Interest Problems and Ways to Avoid Them,” 2016 Spring Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law CLE, Kansas Bar Association, Hays, Kan., March 4, 2016.

“Unresolved Implied Covenant to Develop and Paying Quantities Issues: Defining Prudent Operator Obligations and Options During Good, and Not-So-Good, Times,” The Eugene Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy, University of Oklahoma College of Law and the Oklahoma Bar Association, Oklahoma City, November 6, 2015.

“Analysis of *Fawcett v. Oil Producers, Inc. of Kansas* and the State of Kansas Royalty Calculation Law,” 40th Annual KBA/KIOGA Oil and Gas Law Conference, Kansas Bar Association and the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, Wichita, Kan., October 16, 2015.

“Significant Developments Impacting Kansas Oil and Gas Law,” 40th Annual KBA/KIOGA Oil and Gas Law Conference, Kansas Bar Association and the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, Wichita, Kan., October 16, 2015.

“Introduction to Oil & Gas Law,” Contemporary Issues in Oil & Gas, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, September 25, 2015.

“Iowa Mineral Law for Lawyers Representing Farmers and Other Landowners, Agricultural Law Seminar, Iowa State University Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation, Ames, Iowa, September 17, 2015.

“When the Horizontal and Vertical Collide: Frac Hits and Operator Quest for Détente in the Common Reservoir,” 61st Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute, Anchorage,

Alaska, July 17, 2015 (co-presented with Mark D. Christiansen, McAfee & Taft, Oklahoma City).



Frédéric G. Sourgens

Associate Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Oil and Gas Law Center

ARTICLES IN LAW REVIEWS

“The Virtue of Path Dependence in the Law,” 56 *Santa Clara Law Review* 303 (2016).

“The End of Law: The ISIL Case Study for a Comprehensive Theory of Lawlessness,” 39 *Fordham International Law Journal* 355 (2015).

BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES

Co-editor, *Investment Treaty Arbitration and International Law - Volume 9* (with Ian A. Laird, Borzu Sabahi, and Todd J. Weiler) (Juris Publishing, 2016).

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“Administrative Law in the United States” (with Raymond Diamond) in *Angloamerikanische Rechtssprache, Volume 3* p. 61 (edited by Franz J. Heidinger & Andrea Hubalek) (LexisNexis Verlag Wien, 2016).

“Constitutional Law in the United States” (with Raymond Diamond) in *Angloamerikanische Rechtssprache, Volume 3* p. 1 (edited by Franz J. Heidinger & Andrea Hubalek) (LexisNexis Verlag Wien, 2016).

“International Investment Law and Arbitration: 2013 in Review” (with Ian A. Laird, Borzu Sabahi, Nicholas J. Birch, and Kabir Duggal) in *Yearbook on International Investment Law & Policy 2013-2014* (edited by Andrea Bjorklund) (Oxford University Press, 2015).

EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Editorial Committee Member, Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Compromis, International Law Students Association, 2015-2016 Compromis (The Case Concerning the Frost Files).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Creating Conduits: Summary Report of the First Annual Oxford Investment Claims Summer Academy, St. Anne's College (Oxford) (with Diane Desierto & Ian Laird), EJIL: Talk! (Aug. 12, 2015).

PRESENTATIONS

"Internal Preparation of a Case in International Arbitration," 2016 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, June 24, 2016.

Panelist, "Meet the Author Expert Panel," Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition, April 2, 2016.

CONFERENCES PLANNED

Co-Chair, Oil and Gas Investment Arbitrations II: Celebrating 40 Years of Lex Petrolea, Second Houston Annual Conference Oil and Gas Investment Arbitration 2015, at the University of Houston Law Center, co-sponsored with the International and Comparative Law Center, October 30, 2015.

Co-Chair, First Annual Oxford Investment Claims Summer Academy, Oxford University Press and Investment Claims, St. Anne's College, Oxford, United Kingdom, July 13-14, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Chair, Private International Law Interest Group, American Society of International Law, April 2016 - April 2018.

Selection Committee Member, Jus Gentium Research Award Selection Committee, American Society of International Law, International Legal Research Interest Group, 2015.

Prize Committee Member, Private International Law Prize Committee, American Society of International Law, Private International Law Interest Group, 2015.



Burke W. Griggs
Visiting Associate Professor of Law

ARTICLES IN LAW REVIEWS

"General Stream Adjudications as a Property and Regulatory Model for the Ogallala Aquifer," 15 *Wyoming Law Review* 413 (2015) (invited).

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

"Irrigation Communities, Political Cultures, and the Public in the Age of Depletion" in *Bridging The Distance: Common Issues Of The Rural West* (Editor, David Danbom) (University of Utah Press, 2015).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Some Legal and Machiavellian Principles of Interstate Groundwater Dispute Resolution," 34th Annual Water Law Conference, American Bar Association (2016) (selected as Best Paper).

PRESENTATIONS

"Beyond Boundaries: Western Groundwater in the Age of Depletion," The Geological Society of America, Denver, September 27, 2016 (with Anne Castle).

"An Introduction to Kansas Water Law," Kansas State University and Washburn University School of Law Inaugural Agribusiness Symposium, Exploring the Business of Agriculture, Kansas Farm Bureau, Manhattan, Kan., September 20, 2016.

"Interstate Groundwater Litigation and the Equitable Apportionment of Interstate Aquifers," American Bar Association, Annual Water Law Conference, Austin, Texas, March 29, 2016.

"Should We Adjudicate the Water Rights to the Ogallala Aquifer?" Governor's Conference on Water and the Future of Kansas, Manhattan, Kan., November 19, 2015.

"Injury and Impairment in Kansas Water Law," Kansas Water Authority, Hutchinson, Kan., August 20, 2015; and Kansas Water Congress, Lawrence, Kan., August 6, 2015.

"*Kansas v. Nebraska & Colorado*, No. 126 Original: Its Causes, its Judicial Resolution, and its Actual Consequences," University of Kansas School of Law, Lawrence, Kan., April 7, 2015.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Quoted, "What Happens to the U.S. Midwest When the Water's Gone?," *National Geographic*, August 2016 (also contributed to the map foldout on water law).

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

"Injury to and Impairment of Water Rights Under Kansas Law," Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy, Kansas Legislature, March 15, 2016.

FOR A COMPLETE FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP LISTING, VISIT:
washburnlaw.edu/facultyscholarship

Save the Date!

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM:
"A CRITIQUE OF
OIL AND GAS LAW"
MARCH 31, 2017
WASHBURN LAW, ROOM 102

Q&A - RECENT GRADUATES

Q1.

WHAT TYPE OF LAW ARE YOU PRACTICING?



Ben Busboom, '14
Stinson Leonard Street
Associate

1. I currently practice within my firm's Energy, Environmental, Mining, Telecommunications, and Transportation practice division. Predominantly, I practice in the environmental and energy spaces.

2. All of the courses I took as part of my certificate programs (oil/gas, natural resources, and business/transactional), most specifically, administrative law, advanced oil and gas, environmental law, business associations, and mergers and acquisitions.

3. How to think in a linear/analytical fashion and outside of the box simultaneously...basically, how to think like a lawyer.

Q2.

WHAT PRACTICAL TRAINING/ SKILL THAT YOU LEARNED IN LAW SCHOOL DO YOU APPLY THE MOST IN YOUR JOB?



Michael Baxter, '14
Jeter Law Firm LLP
Associate

1. I am currently practicing oil and gas, real estate, probate, and civil litigation.

2. The most applicable skill to my job that I learned at Washburn Law is legal research and writing.

3. Research and writing is also the most important thing I learned.



Jeffrey Wilson, '14
Anderson & Byrd, LLP
Associate

1. I practice in a variety of areas: landlord tenant issues, probate and

Q3.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED IN LAW SCHOOL?

intestate succession, commercial transactions, oil and gas law, energy regulation and ratemaking, and general civil litigation.

2. Writing and research skills. I have a degree in journalism, so I already had some skills to build on. However, navigating the various sources of legal authority and arranging that information in the most persuasive way is the backbone of my practice. Law school helped me tremendously in this area. I've quickly learned that oral arguments rarely win a motion or an appeal. Instead, it is the brief or memorandum you submit before that stage. It affects nearly every area of my practice, including client communications.

3. Aside from the research and writing skills, the most important thing I learned in law school was that objective analysis requires limited emotions. Put another way, jumping to conclusions or assuming facts you don't know can be detrimental in that they can influence how you build a case throughout litigation. You really have to be willing to consider the other side and always with a rational eye rather than an emotional one. This requires vigilance from the very beginning of an attorney client relationship.

OGEL'S YEAR-END SENDOFF



The Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Society hosted a social and networking event on April 26, 2016, on the south patio. They celebrated the school year and gave a proper send off to the 3L class.



Ben Carmichael, '16



Katie Gerth, '16



Seth Jones, '16



Michael Lygrisse, '16



Sean McElwain, '16



Halston Rucker, '16



Stephen Stocks, '16



Travis Ternes, '16

Oil and Gas Law Certificate

In 2016, seven students earned an Oil and Gas Law Certificate: Ben Carmichael, Katie Gerth, Seth Jones, Michael Lygrisse, Halston Rucker, Stephen Stocks, and Travis Ternes. A student seeking the Oil and Gas Law Certificate must complete 6 hours of required coursework in oil and gas law plus 10 hours of optional curriculum courses.

To earn the certificate, students must participate in 100 hours of extracurricular programming related to oil and gas law. Students must complete a practical professional experience where they have the opportunity to experience oil and gas law in action. This requirement may be met through

an appropriate externship, internship, or other work-related relationship. It may be fulfilled in conjunction with an approved extracurricular activity. The goal is to bring students together with oil and gas practitioners to actively participate in addressing legal issues as they unfold.

To earn the Certificate, students must complete the upper-level writing requirement (or equivalent writing project) on a pre-approved oil and gas law topic. They may satisfy the Certificate writing requirement through Directed Research or an alternative writing opportunity approved in advance by the Center Director.

Certificate in Natural Resources Law

In 2016, three students earned a Natural Resources Law Certificate: Ben Carmichael, Sean McElwain, and Travis Ternes. A student seeking the Certificate in Natural Resources must complete three hours of required coursework in environmental law plus 12 hours of optional curriculum courses.

The upper-level writing requirement may be satisfied by the Natural Resources Law Seminar, Directed Research, or an alternative writing opportunity approved in advance by the student's certificate advisor.

EXTERNSHIP BUSINESS PARTNERS

Most State Agencies, Entities, and Boards
 Banking Entities and Corporations
 Chevron U.S.A.
 Children and Family Guidance Center
 Disability Rights Center
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 Internal Revenue Service
 Kansas Association of Counties
 Kansas Association of School Boards
 Kansas Attorney General's Office
 Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
 Kansas Corporation Commission
 Oil and Gas Conservation Division
 Kansas Court of Tax Appeals

Kansas Department for Children and Families
 Kansas Department of Agriculture
 Kansas Department of Commerce
 Kansas Department of Health and Environment
 Kansas Department of Revenue
 Kansas Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control
 Kansas Insurance Department
 Kansas League of Municipalities
 Kansas Legal Services
 Kansas Soybean Association
 Kansas State Bankers Association
 Local Corporations
 Midwest Innocence Project
 Non-profit Organizations

Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner
 Payless ShoeSource
 Prairie Band Potawatomi Court System
 Regional Federal Agencies
 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office
 State and Federal Courts
 Statewide and Nationwide Courts and Prosecutors/Defenders Offices
 Statewide Board of Indigents' Defense Services
 Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority
 YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment

Placement opportunities vary annually. Non-exhaustive list.

Your Assistance is Requested

At Washburn Law, we are dedicated to promoting the study of oil and gas law and assisting our students in becoming successful lawyers. Even for students who will never practice oil and gas law, taking advantage of these Center opportunities will make them better lawyers, with a better understanding of contract law, property law, and the interaction of business and regulation. The things we do at the Center enhance the law school experience for all students and provide opportunities to see the law in action and learn from leading practitioners.

The Center programs require the active involvement of lawyers with expertise in oil and gas law and related disciplines. Currently, the Center uses over 100 practitioners to assist in teaching our students. If you are not currently participating, and you believe your expertise would be relevant to an existing program or a program you think we should be

pursuing, contact Professor David Pierce. (*Please see contact information in the box below.*)

As this report demonstrates, providing many of the extracurricular activities to our students requires considerable funding. The proximity of Topeka to field trip opportunities, conferences, and the practicing oil and gas bar means students have to travel. Although we always seek the cheapest travel alternatives, it is still expensive. The Center does not charge students to participate in extracurricular activities. Most of the time, conference registration fees are waived or substantially reduced by the provider.

Center travel assistance covers the means to get the student to the event and a place to stay. The student is responsible for food (except for food that is part of the event registration) and other travel expenses. This approach makes it possible for all students to participate while

maximizing funds available for the two major travel costs: transport and lodging.

Private donations provide most of the funding to support the Center's extracurricular study programs. Therefore, private donations determine how much we can do. If you would like to support the Center's activities, you can do so by sending your contribution to Professor David Pierce. (Please see contact information in the box below.) Make checks payable to: Washburn University School of Law, Oil and Gas Law Center.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about the Washburn Oil and Gas Law Center and its programs.

Thank you.

David E. Pierce, '77

*Oil and Gas Law Center Director and
Norman R. Pozez Chair in Business and
Transactional Law*



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