

Energy & Mineral Law Foundation  
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## Speakers' Biographies

### **Robert J. Andre III** **Steptoe & Johnson PLLC**

Robert Andre is a Member of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC in Bridgeport, West Virginia, and focuses his practice in the areas of energy and oil and gas law. Prior to joining Steptoe & Johnson, Mr. Andre managed and supervised the title operations for the land resources department of a *Fortune 500* energy company. Mr. Andre is a member of the Michael Late Benedum Chapter of the American Association of Professional Landmen and is the recipient of *The State Journal's* Generation Next, 2006 award. Mr. Andre graduated from West Virginia University College of Law, and received his undergraduate degrees from West Virginia University and Potomac State College. He is admitted to practice law in West Virginia.

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### **Sherrie A. Armstrong** **Crowell & Moring LLP**

Sherrie A. Armstrong is an associate in the Washington, D.C., office of Crowell & Moring LLP and is a member of the firm's Environment, Energy, and Resources Group. Sherrie's practice extends broadly to regulatory, trial, and appellate matters that span industry sectors ranging from mining to oil and gas and wind power. As part of her surface mining practice, Sherrie represents a group of mine operators, owners, and employee representatives in defending the State of Montana's surface mining regulatory program from challenge in Montana federal district court. The favorable ruling in that case is now on ENGO appeal to the Ninth Circuit. Sherrie also is involved in the recently revived stream zone buffer rule litigation.

Prior to joining Crowell & Moring LLP, Sherrie practiced in West Virginia where she served as outside litigation counsel to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in Clean Water Act matters and where she also handled a variety of consumer protection and employment law cases. Sherrie also served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Chase T. Rogers, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, the Honorable Joseph R. Goodwin, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, and the Honorable Jerome A. Holmes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Sherrie received a B.A. and a Masters in Public Administration from the College of Charleston. She received her law degree with High Honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law and is licensed to practice in Connecticut, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and numerous federal courts.

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**Mitchell E. Ayer**  
**Thompson & Knight LLP**

Mitchell E. Ayer is a Partner in Thompson & Knight's Oil and Gas Practice Group and Bankruptcy Practice Group in Houston. He represents service companies, lenders, and oil and gas companies in various collection and bankruptcy matters. Mr. Ayer also counsels clients in acquisitions and dispositions of oil and gas properties and natural resource companies. He has several reported oil and gas cases in state and bankruptcy courts. Mr. Ayer is Board Certified in Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law and Business Bankruptcy Law. Mr. Ayer received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Houston Law Center, his M.B.A. from Cleveland State University, and his B.A. from Wittenberg University. He is a frequent speaker on oil and gas credit matters. Mr. Ayer was named to *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2012 for Oil & Gas Law and has been named to *Texas Super Lawyers*® for multiple years. He is currently President of the Houston Bankruptcy Inns of Court and is past chair of the Houston Bar Association Oil and Gas Section. He served on the legendary Coast Guard Cutter Bibb from 1972 to 1974.

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**David K. Brooks**  
**Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department of the State of New Mexico**

David K. Brooks currently serves as Assistant General Counsel for the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department of the State of New Mexico, an agency that oversees oil and gas, mining and forestry in New Mexico. Brooks is also an Administrative Hearing Examiner for the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. He received his J.D. degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Texas Law School in 1973, has practiced with several private law firms, and served from 1987 to 1999 as Judge of the 191st District Court of Dallas County, Texas. He is presently licensed to practice law in the States of New Mexico and Texas and is a member of the Bar Associations of those states. He has authored articles on oil and gas topics that have been published in the *Texas Law Review*, the *Texas Bar Journal*, and the *Environmental and Natural Resources Journal* of the American Bar Association. Brooks has been a frequent speaker at seminars in New Mexico on natural resource issues.

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**Kimberly H. Bryant**  
**Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP**

Ms. Bryant is a partner in the Lexington office of Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP, where she is a member of the firm's Corporate and Transactional Practice Group, Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Practice Group and Real Estate Practice Group. Ms. Bryant's practice focuses on business transactions and mergers and acquisitions, including those in the mineral industry; leasing issues, complex financing, commercial real estate development and land use; and general corporate representation, including organizational and planning matters for closely held companies.

Ms. Bryant is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation and served as a contributor to the UK/CLE *Kentucky Real Estate Law and Practice*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Update (2012) with respect to both real estate and financing topics. She has served on a number of local charitable and civic boards and commissions, including the Public Policy Council of Commerce Lexington. Ms. Bryant is a prior EMLF presenter and author.

Ms. Bryant received her J.D. in 2001 from the University of Kentucky College Of Law, *cum laude*, and her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Morehead State University in 1996.

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**Gretchen M. Callas**  
**Jackson Kelly PLLC**

Gretchen M. Callas is a trial lawyer who handles civil litigation of all types for coal companies. Since 2007, she has tried two cases to verdict in southern West Virginia for Massey Energy, now Alpha Natural Resources. Gretchen has experience in lawsuits involving underground and surface operations, as well as reclamation work. She works with coal miners in the investigation and reconstruction of accidents and evidence preservation. As a member of the civil litigation team in connection with the April 5, 2010, Upper Big Branch disaster, Gretchen spent days underground at the mine and along the longwall face.

Gretchen has a varied practice overall, and her work has led to her inclusion in *Best Lawyers* in the area of mass litigation and class actions. She spent ten years defending a heavy equipment manufacturer in product design claims brought by 300 construction workers. She is one of only three members of the Product Liability Advisory Council from the state of West Virginia.

Gretchen is a member of Jackson Kelly PLLC and from 2007 until 2011 served on the Firm's senior management team as the assistant managing member.

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**Keith J. Coyle**  
**Babst Calland**

Keith Coyle is an associate in Babst Calland's Energy and Natural Resources Group, where he focuses on matters affecting the oil and natural gas pipeline industries. Keith has prior experience working on these issues as an attorney for the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. He served as an Attorney-Advisor for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), where he handled matters related to the federal safety standards for oil and natural gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. He also served as an instructor in PHMSA's Pipeline Safety Inspector Training and Qualifications Division and contributed to the development of the agency's enforcement guidance for pipeline operations and maintenance activities. Prior to joining the Firm, Keith served as Legislative Counsel for Congressman Kevin Brady, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee and a senior member of the Republican leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives. His primary role in this position was to advise Mr. Brady on energy, natural resources and environmental issues. Keith is Vice

Chairman of the Energy Bar Association's Compliance and Enforcement Committee and is a member of the Oil Pipelines Committee of the American Bar Association's Section on Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law.

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**James B. Curry**  
**Van Ness Feldman, LLP**

Jim Curry represents clients in pipeline safety matters before the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), state commissions and the federal courts. His practice covers enforcement, litigation, appeals, compliance and strategic counseling, audit preparation and policy. Mr. Curry has experience in all sectors of the pipeline industry, including gas transmission, gathering and distribution, oil, NGL and products pipelines, and LNG facilities. He also counsels clients on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pipeline certificate and abandonment, infrastructure cost recovery, and PHMSA hazardous materials safety matters.

As a former PHMSA attorney, Mr. Curry represented the agency in pipeline safety enforcement cases, collaborating with engineers to develop notices of probable violation and corrective action orders. He also served as a presiding official at agency hearings, and prepared recommended final orders and decisions on petitions for reconsideration. In his enforcement role, Mr. Curry worked extensively with the U.S. DOJ and the U.S. EPA on complex pipeline litigation involving claims under the Pipeline Safety Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act. These efforts led to a significant civil Consent Decree addressing crude oil pipelines on Alaska's North Slope. At PHMSA, Mr. Curry was also involved in rulemakings, regulatory interpretations, special permit reviews, and congressional matters. Today, Mr. Curry uses that experience to help firm clients navigate the changing legal landscape of pipeline safety.

Mr. Curry is a graduate of Boston University and holds a law degree from the Seton Hall University School of Law.

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**Joseph M. Dawley**  
**EQT Corporation**

Joseph Dawley is Corporate Director of Government Affairs for EQT Corporation. In this role he is responsible for the execution of EQT's political engagement strategy and management of EQT's government affairs team. Prior to this role, he was counsel for environmental and regulatory law where he counseled EQT Production and EQT Midstream on matters involving environmental, health and safety, and pipeline safety. He joined EQT in June 2008 as counsel for EQT Midstream where he provided counsel on regulatory and commercial matters involving the interstate transmission pipeline and the gathering pipeline business. Prior to joining EQT, he practiced environmental and construction law at firms in Charleston, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Dawley served as General Counsel for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection from 2002 to 2005. Prior to law school, he

practiced chemical and environmental engineering and during that time he became a registered Professional Engineer.

Mr. Dawley is a 1986 graduate of Syracuse University where he earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. He is also a 1997 graduate of Lewis and Clark Law School, where he earned a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law.

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**Blair M. Gardner  
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Blair Gardner is a member of Jackson Kelly in Charleston, West Virginia, where he represents natural resource and mining companies in matters involving issues of resource ownership, environmental liability and water rights. Since joining Jackson Kelly in 2001, he has defended coal companies in citizen suits in the federal courts in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia over claims arising under the federal Clean Water Act and SMCRA. He currently is representing land companies in class action litigation and individual civil actions contesting the ownership of coal-bed methane in state and federal courts in Virginia.

Mr. Gardner last presented a paper to the EMLF Annual Institute in 2007. Before joining Jackson Kelly, he was an attorney and vice president for Arch Coal, Inc. and a predecessor company for 16 years. He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Mr. Gardner is a 1974 graduate of Brown University, and received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1977.

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**Monica Derbes Gibson  
Venable LLP**

Monica Gibson is an advisor and litigator with nearly 20 years of legal experience in the federal government and private sector. As a member of Venable's environmental group, Ms. Gibson focuses her practice on matters related to the Clean Air Act (CAA). She has a deep background in CAA issues and understands the day-to-day impact of clean air regulations on how companies operate their facilities.

Prior to joining Venable, Ms. Gibson was a trial attorney with the Justice Department's Environmental Defense Section, in the Environment and Natural Resources Division. While at the Justice Department, Ms. Gibson defended government agency actions, including regulations and permitting decisions under the CAA; regulations and permitting actions under the Clean Water Act (CWA); regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); and federal facility cleanups under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Ms. Gibson also worked for the Environmental Protection Agency as an attorney advisor and later as Acting Assistant General Counsel for New Source Review in the General Counsel's Air and Radiation Law Office. While at the EPA, Ms. Gibson worked with staff in the Air and

Enforcement offices to develop and defend legal challenges to the 2002 revisions to the EPA regulations implementing the CAA permitting programs for new and modified major stationary sources ("New Source Review"). She provided legal advice on a variety of questions relating to implementation and applicability of the New Source Review regulations as well as advising on NSR enforcement cases. She also worked on the development of regulations of toxic air pollutant emissions from sources in various industrial sectors, and provided legal advice on questions involving Title V operating permit programs and New Source Performance Standards.

Ms. Gibson has lectured extensively on legal developments under CAA and CWA for a variety of groups.

Ms. Gibson received her J.D. from the University of Virginia in 1993 and her B.A. in 1988.

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**Michael Goldenberg**  
**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

Mr. Goldenberg is a senior attorney in the Office of the General Counsel at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He has worked at the Commission since 1991 on a variety of natural gas regulatory issues, and more recently on electric regulatory issues. He worked on some of the major Commission natural gas rulemakings, such as Order Nos. 636, 637 and 712. On electric issues, he is involved principally with the regulation of organized markets run by Regional Transmission Organizations. Mr. Goldenberg also was involved in the formation of the Gas Industry Standards Board, now the National Energy Standards Board (NAESB), and, over the years, has participated in many of its meetings relating to gas electric coordination issues. He recently served, as a non-voting member, on the NAESB Gas-Electric Harmonization Committee.

Prior to joining the Commission, Mr. Goldenberg worked at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), focusing principally on antitrust cases. He also worked on the FTC's Standards and Certification project.

Mr. Goldenberg graduated cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School where he served as Articles Editor on the *Wisconsin Law Review*. He has published two articles: "Standards, Public Welfare Defenses, and the Antitrust Laws," 42 *Bus. Law.* 629 (1987); "Note, Securities Law, Fraud," 1977 *Wis. L. Rev.* 256.

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**Mark E. Heath**  
**Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC**

Mark E. Heath is a member of Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, in Charleston, West Virginia. He concentrates his practice in safety issues, litigation and labor and employment law.

His work involves both federal and state court actions, as well as administrative cases before federal and state agencies. Mr. Heath represents employers on matters pertaining to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and state safety agencies with respect to interpretations of regulatory requirements, significant citations and orders, accident investigations, special investigations, and employment discrimination issues related to safety. Mr. Heath regularly tries cases before Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission ALJs and before state mine safety boards in Kentucky and West Virginia.

Mr. Heath is a Trustee of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation (EMLF) and has served as Secretary, Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee for the Foundation and has been a frequent speaker at EMLF and American Bar Association programs on Mine Safety Law, Annual Institutes and the fall Mineral Law Conference. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America, 19th edition*, in Energy Law.

From 1987 to 1989, Mr. Heath was a Captain with the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, practicing in the areas of criminal justice, administrative law and labor and employment law. Mr. Heath graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law (J.D. 1986). He did his undergraduate work at Western Kentucky University (B.A. *cum laude*, 1983).

Mr. Heath is a member of the bars of Kentucky and West Virginia. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Courts of West Virginia and Kentucky, various U.S. District Courts, as well as the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth and Sixth Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

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**Amber Nisbet Hodgdon  
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Amber Nisbet Hodgdon is an attorney at EnerVest Operating, L.L.C., in Charleston, West Virginia. Her work is focused on litigation and various lease issues in the Eastern United States, with a particular emphasis on these issues in Ohio.

Amber received her B.A. degree in English and Political Science from the University of Kentucky in 2006. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, Amber attended the West Virginia University College of Law where she received her J.D. in 2009. She is admitted to practice in West Virginia and Kentucky.

Prior to joining EnerVest in 2011, Amber worked for EQT Midstream in Washington, Pennsylvania, and EQT Production Company in Charleston, West Virginia. Her professional memberships include the West Virginia Bar Association, the Kentucky Bar Association, the American Association of Professional Landmen, Women's Energy Network, and the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation.

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**Nathaniel I. Holland**  
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Nathaniel Holland is Of Counsel for Step toe & Johnson PLLC in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he assists clients with business transactions and litigation involving the oil and gas industry. Mr. Holland is a member of the Crawford County Bar Association and Crawford County Young Chamber of Commerce. He graduated from Cornell Law School and received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University. He is admitted to practice law in New York and Pennsylvania.

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**Natalie N. Jefferis**  
**EQT Midstream**

Natalie N. Jefferis is a Regional Land Director for EQT Midstream in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Jefferis is responsible for managing the acquisition of property rights and permits necessary for the construction of gathering and transmission pipelines in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Jefferis joined EQT in 2006 and was responsible for clearing title to conventional shale wells, coalbed methane wells and horizontal wells in the Big Sandy Gas Field until 2008. Prior to joining EQT, Mrs. Jefferis worked as an associate at Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love, LLP in Charleston. While at Bowles Rice, she was an associate in the Energy Group and her practice focused on coal contracts, oil and gas litigation and arbitration and commercial real estate transactions.

Mrs. Jefferis is an active member of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation and currently serves on its Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. She is also a member of the WVU College of Law's 2011-2012 Development Council and the advisory board for the Energy and Sustainability Center at WVU College of Law. She earned her J.D. from West Virginia University College of Law in 2002. She is admitted to practice in the state of West Virginia and before the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia.

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**R. Clay Larkin**  
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Mr. Larkin is a member of the Bingham Greenebaum's Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Practice Group, focusing his practice on the representation of energy and utility clients in environmental compliance, litigation, and transactional matters.

Mr. Larkin is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association, Kentucky Coal Association, Kentucky Oil & Gas Association, and the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation. He serves as Secretary and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Fayette County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Mr. Larkin is a frequent author and speaker on legal issues affecting the energy and natural resources industries. He is a contributing author to Bingham Greenebaum's *Environmental*



*Letter and Air Quality Letter* and has authored papers on a variety of issues for previous EMLF events.

Mr. Larkin received his J.D. in 2007 from the University of Kentucky College of Law where he was a member of the *Kentucky Law Journal* and Moot Court Board. He received his B.A. from Western Kentucky University in 2004.

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**John R. Leathers**  
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John R. Leathers is a shareholder in Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has been General Counsel to the Firm since 2005. Prior to becoming General Counsel, Mr. Leathers had a practice which concentrated in commercial litigation, including that specifically related to disputes arising from regulatory and business issues involved in all areas of mineral law. He is a frequent speaker at presentations related to professional ethics, having made such presentations for many organizations.

Prior to entering the private practice of law, Mr. Leathers was a law professor for sixteen years, having taught at Columbia Law School, the University of Houston, the University of Oklahoma and the University of Kentucky. His teaching fields included Conflict of Laws, Federal Civil Procedure and Federal Jurisdiction. Mr. Leathers has published frequently, being the author of more than twenty articles.

Mr. Leathers is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, holds a law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law and received an LL.M. from Columbia Law School.

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**Timothy M. McKeen**  
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Timothy M. McKeen is a Member of Step toe & Johnson PLLC in Wheeling, West Virginia, and focuses his practice in the areas of energy and mineral law (coal, oil, and gas), and real estate transactions. Mr. McKeen regularly assists clients with mineral title examinations and title opinions, coordinating and performing due diligence and mineral acquisitions throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. He is the author of the American Association of Professional Landman's Ohio article in its *Summary of Oil and Gas Law* publication. He has also written several law review articles on Ohio oil and gas law and has spoken on various energy topics to industry groups. He is the President-elect of the Wheeling Rotary Club and is involved in many community organizations. Mr. McKeen graduated *cum laude* from Washington & Lee University School of Law and received his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from Wheeling Jesuit University. He is admitted to practice law in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

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**Emily C. McKinney**  
**Frost Brown Todd LLC**

Emily McKinney is a senior associate of Frost Brown Todd and a member of the firm's environmental practice group in Louisville, Kentucky. She represents clients in a variety of environmental litigation matters in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies, including permit appeals, government enforcement actions, and environmental citizen suits. Ms. McKinney also provides regulatory counseling involving the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and assists clients in the purchase and sale of property involving potential environmental contamination. Her practice focuses on the utility, mining, manufacturing, and commercial real estate industries.

Ms. McKinney co-authored *The Clean Water Act Two-Step: The Back-and-Forth Challenges of the Corps of Engineers' Permitting Authority Under the Clean Water Act* for the EMLF's 30th Annual Institute, and has been a contributing author of the Waste and Resource Recovery Annual Report in the last several editions of the American Bar Association's publication, *Environmental, Energy, and Resources Law: The Year in Review*.

Ms. McKinney earned her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, and her B.S. in Biology, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Kentucky. She is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association. Ms. McKinney serves on the executive boards of the Celiac Sprue Association and Women in Commercial Real Estate Louisville, and volunteers with the Family Scholar House.

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**Thomas C. Means**  
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Thomas C. ("Tim") Means joined Crowell & Moring LLP ("C&M") in 1978, is a partner in the firm's Energy, Environment and Resources Group, and chairs the firm's Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Group. His practice focuses on the federal regulation of the mining industry and challenging adverse agency action through administrative and judicial review. C&M has offices in New York, Orange County, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Anchorage, Cheyenne, London and Brussels, as well as Washington, D.C.

Tim represents mine operators, mine supervisors, mining equipment manufacturers, and trade associations in Mine Safety & Health Act (MSHA) and Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) matters. Tim has actively represented the coal industry in SMCRA regulatory and enforcement litigation since the federal regulations were first promulgated in 1979 and has authored numerous articles on SMCRA topics for the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation and others. He regularly assists mining companies in defending against MSHA special investigations seeking to impose civil and criminal liability, against MSHA discrimination (whistleblower) complaints, and against MSHA enforcement actions, challenging improper MSHA citations and orders and excessive civil penalties. Tim also represents mine operators

and supervisors in the aftermath of mine accidents, assisting in their defense during the ensuing congressional, criminal, and agency investigations.

Tim is listed as one of *The Best Lawyers in America* and is a Trustee and Past President of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation. He is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia, and is admitted to practice before most of the United States Courts of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. Tim is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Dartmouth College, with a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Colorado and a law degree with Highest Honors from George Washington University.

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**David E. Northrop  
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David Northrop joined Babst Calland after spending the last 40 years practicing law in Columbus, Ohio. His practice involves representing clients in their interactions with federal and state energy and environmental regulatory agencies, and includes client counseling and litigation. He has litigated on behalf of clients in administrative matters involving environmental permits, and has defended clients in civil and criminal enforcement matters in federal and state court.

Mr. Northrop represents clients in matters involving energy production, air pollution, water pollution, solid waste, hazardous waste, and property contamination, including Superfund cases. He also counsels clients on the environmental aspects of transactions such as the acquisition or sale of businesses or property.

Mr. Northrop graduated from Allegheny College in 1970. He received his J.D., *summa cum laude*, from The Ohio State University College of Law (now the Moritz College of Law) in 1972, and has practiced environmental law since 1973 in both the public sector and, since 1987, in private practice. His practice in the public sector was in the Ohio Attorney General's Office, representing the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Northrop practiced in the Environmental Enforcement Section for ten years, including four years of service as Chief of the section. He also served for four years as Deputy Chief Counsel to the Attorney General.

Mr. Northrop is admitted to practice in Ohio and Pennsylvania, as well as in the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Northern Districts of Ohio, the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Eastern District of Kentucky, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association.

Mr. Northrop has been recognized as a leading practitioner of environmental law on several occasions and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 1995 and named the Best Lawyers' 2013 Pittsburgh Environmental Law Lawyer of the Year. He has also been recognized by the publishers of *Law & Politics* and *Cincinnati Magazine* as an Ohio Super Lawyer®.

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**David G. Ries**  
**Clark Hill Thorp Reed**

David G. Ries is a member of Clark Hill Thorp Reed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he practices in the areas of environmental, commercial and technology law and litigation. He is a Past President of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation (EMLF) and served two terms as a member and chair of a hearing committee for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Dave received his B.A. from Boston College in 1971 and his J.D. from Boston College Law School in 1974 where he was a member of the *Boston College Industrial and Commercial Law Review*.

His environmental practice over the last thirty-nine years has included a broad range of issues in federal and state courts and before administrative agencies, including CERCLA litigation, Clean Water Act litigation, solid and hazardous waste issues, Clean Air Act litigation, storage tank litigation, court and administrative challenges to regulatory programs and defense of penalty actions. His technology practice has included a variety of litigation matters, including major systems implementations, and advising clients on a number of technology law issues such as hardware and software agreements, information security, privacy regulations, records management, e-discovery, and electronic contracting. He has regularly represented energy companies.

Dave has frequently spoken and written on environmental, technology, and ethics issues for legal, academic and professional groups including the EMLF, the American Bar Association, the Association of Corporate Counsel, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the National Groundwater Association. He serves on the Editorial Board of *Environmental Forensics* (a peer reviewed journal).

Some of his recent ethics presentations for EMLF include an annual *Ethics Update* at the Winter Workshops; *Confidentiality Problems for Lawyers in Today's Digital Era*; *Attorneys and Clients in Conflict*; *E-Discovery Ethics: Staying Out of the Briar Patch*; and *Multijurisdictional Practice: Lawyering Here, There and Everywhere*.

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Justin W. Ross is a senior associate at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP in Lexington, Kentucky. His practice primarily involves commercial disputes in the energy industry, with a strong focus on coal supply agreement matters. Justin presented the Coal Law Update at the 2010 EMLF Annual Institute and returned in 2011 to speak about one of his favorite topics in a presentation entitled *Remedial Remedies: or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the UCC*.

Justin grew up in Ashland, Kentucky, and received his undergraduate degree in economics from Wake Forest University. After a couple of years studying film in Savannah, Georgia, Justin returned to Kentucky and earned his J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Fayette County Bar Association and Big

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**Shannon (“A.J.”) Singleton  
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A Member in the Lexington office, A.J. Singleton has been with Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC since 2000. He is the firm’s Deputy General Counsel and is a member of the Business Litigation Practice with a concentration in Business Torts and Class Action. A.J.’s practice focuses on legal ethics; judicial, legislative, and executive branch ethics; mineral litigation, including trespass actions; shareholder derivative actions; and defense of breach of fiduciary duty claims. He also addresses attorney-client privilege and confidentiality issues for the firm and for the firm’s clients.

A.J. is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*® for his many legal accomplishments. He works on ethics compliance issues for the firm and is a frequent speaker on legal ethics, professional responsibility, and risk management topics.

Coupling his love of history with a commitment to his community, A.J. has served as a member of the Board of the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation and as Secretary and Board member of the Kentucky Civil War Round Table.

A.J. received his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in 1996 and his B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Furman University in 1993. He attended Kansai University of Foreign Language in Osaka, Japan in 1991.

A.J. is licensed to practice in Kentucky and Georgia. He is admitted to the U.S. District Courts of Kentucky, Eastern and Western Districts and of Georgia, Northern District.

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Mr. Stone is an associate in the firm of Sean Cassidy and Associates, P.C. He is a member of the Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Star County, Ohio, and Ohio State Bar Associations. He received his J.D. from the University of Akron School of Law and his B.A. from The Ohio State University. Mr. Stone has been engaged in the private practice of law since 1991, and is admitted in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

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**Joel E. Symonds**  
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Joel E. Symonds is Of Counsel at Step toe & Johnson in Charleston, West Virginia. He practices in the firm's Energy and Natural Resources Department. He focuses his practice on real property and energy law. Joel has experience representing oil and gas companies, coal companies, and land companies. Before joining Step toe and Johnson, Joel spent nearly five years as an attorney in the land department of an Appalachian exploration and production company. He has experience certifying title, performing due diligence projects, and representing both buyers and sellers in energy transactions. He is a member of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, has published articles in the EMLF White Papers, and has spoken at multiple EMLF events.

Joel received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and German Literature and his Juris Doctorate from Washington and Lee University.

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**Thomas S. West**  
**The West Firm, PLLC**

Thomas S. West, founder and managing partner of The West Firm, PLLC, is recognized for his distinguished accomplishments in the oil and gas and environmental fields by the Best Lawyers in America®, Super Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Top Lawyers, and Strathmore's Who's Who. He is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell. At The West Firm, Tom represents clients in the oil and gas sector on a broad variety of issues involving legislation, compulsory integration, administrative adjudication, civil litigation, and investigations by the New York Attorney General's office. Tom is at the forefront of representing the oil and gas industry on regulatory issues in New York concerning the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement and is actively involved in precedent-setting litigation relative to home rule and force majeure issues. He and his firm have significant experience representing the pipeline industry in regulatory and environmental matters, litigation and criminal defense. In 2010, he and his firm launched a title practice in New York and Pennsylvania and they are actively writing title opinions in both states for the oil and gas industry.

Outside of the oil and gas area, Tom has an extensive environmental practice, representing a broad variety of clients on environmental issues involving counseling, civil litigation, administrative practice, and criminal defense. He represented industry groups in litigation successfully challenging regulations relative to the State Superfund and pesticide programs in New York State. He also has extensive experience assisting clients in obtaining permits in a broad variety of environmental programs.

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