

TEXAS JOURNAL OF OIL, GAS, & ENERGY LAW

The Drill • January 2011



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What's New...

TJOGEL recently held its 6th Annual Texas Energy Law Symposium on January 20-21, 2011 at the AT&T Conference Center in Austin. The 2011 Symposium was a great success and we would like to thank all of those who attended or spoke.

The TJOGEL Staff has begun work on Volume 6:2, which will be published later this year. 6:2 will feature some of our most exciting articles to date and we look forward to introducing them to you as the year goes on.

Additionally, TJOGEL Blog Editors are continuing to report weekly on current issues in the energy law field on our recently inaugurated Texas Energy Law Blog—www.tjogel.org/blog.

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Thanks to everyone who supports our Journal, especially those who have donated this year to help our growth.

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2011 Texas Energy Law Symposium and Banquet



On January 20-21, TJOGEI hosted its 6th Annual Texas Energy Law Symposium at the AT&T Conference Center in Austin. The symposium provided the more than 100 attendees 12 CLE credits and an opportunity to learn about current issues in the energy industry. Over two days, attendees heard from a variety of industry on experts on topics ranging from air quality to modern subsurface trespass law. Speakers included Chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Texas Brian Smitherman (pictured at left) and Professor Owen L. Anderson.

TJOGEI's annual banquet took place on January 21 in conjunction with the Texas Energy Law Symposium. This year's banquet honored Fielding "Tres" Cochran, partner at Vinson & Elkins and recipient of the Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award. TJOGEI staff and society members had a chance to meet the Journal's Board of Advisors and attorneys from around the state. The banquet is an annual opportunity to recognize the hard work of the Journal's staff and its supporters from the energy law community. We greatly appreciate the support and would like to thank those who attended this year.

Fielding "Tres" Cochran Receives the Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award



On January 20, 2011, the *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law* awarded the 2011 Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award to Fielding "Tres" Cochran III, partner at Vinson & Elkins in Houston. This prestigious

award is given to a distinguished attorney who has made significant contributions to the oil, gas, and energy industry.

Mr. Cochran's practice is focused on energy industry transactions, including M&A, project development, and commodity trading and hedging. He has represented clients ranging from investment banks to oil & gas producers in over 30 years of practice. Mr. Cochran has worked on energy transactions in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Canada, Australia, and the UK. He is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law.

Mr. Cochran is consistently recognized as one of the leading attorneys in the energy law field. Jay D. Kelley, partner at Pillsbury, says of Mr. Cochran: "Tres is one of the most talented and versatile energy lawyers I have ever known. Over the course of his career he has distinguished himself in a wide variety of energy transactions, ranging from traditional oil and gas to alternative energy projects such as wind power, geothermal and carbon sequestration. Tres is an excellent choice for the 2011 Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award."

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Cochran serves the Houston community as a Board Member of Amazing Place, an organization that assists individuals with Alzheimer's and provides support to their families and friends.

The Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award honors practitioners who have participated in the advancement of natural resources law, policy, or scholarship. The award is named after Professor Ernest E. Smith, the Rex G. Baker Centennial Chair in Natural Resources Law at the University of Texas School of Law. Considered the preeminent specialist in oil, gas, and energy law, Smith co-wrote leading casebook *Oil and Gas Law* and leading treatise *Texas Law of Oil and Gas*. He created the first-ever wind-power law class to be taught at an American law school. He also teaches property law. Smith recently received the Massey Teaching Excellence Award, which is given to a law professor who "epitomizes the School's priority of providing the highest quality of teaching to its students." Smith also serves as a faculty advisor to the *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law*.

The sixth recipient of the Ernest E. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr. Cochran joins Timothy Unger, partner at Andrews Kurth LLP; Cotton Bledsoe Tighe & Dawson Founding Partner Robert Bledsoe; former Devon Energy General Counsel Duke Ligon; Exxon General Counsel C. Kenneth Roberts; and the late Frank Douglass, founding partner of Scott, Douglass & McConnico, in receiving this honor at the Journal's annual banquet.

Meet the Board



Jeff Nydegger is our Chief Articles Editor and is currently in his third year of law school. Jeff is interested in administrative law, particularly in the utility regulation industry. During his first-year summer, he co-

authored a journal article discussing the regulation of the wind energy industry across the United States. Upon completing his law degree, Jeff plans to practice law at Winstead, PC here in Austin. Jeff is married with two children-- Jackson, four, and Harper, 15 months.



Kelly Whitebread is the Journal's Treasurer. She became interested in energy law after interning with the in house counsel of Hilcorp Energy Company in

Houston. Kelly graduated summa cum laude with a BBA in International Business from St. Edward's University in 2008. Before law school, she taught English at a vocational high school in Germany through the Fulbright Program. This summer, Kelly will be clerking in Houston with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, and Bracewell & Giuliani.

Forthcoming Article—Volume 6: 1

REVENUE DECOUPLING FOR ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTORS: CURRENT APPROACHES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Brian Tomasovic, a lawyer from EPA Region 6 in Dallas, brings TJOGEL an article on revenue decoupling for electricity distributors. Decoupling policies seek to end incentives for utility companies to gain more income based on the amount of power that end-users receive. Tomasovic walks readers through the historical background for traditional electricity ratemaking. Then, he discusses the process by which states that seek to promote gains in energy efficiency are encouraging decoupling. There are flaws with decoupling, Tomasovic demonstrates, as well as alternatives. Ultimately, Tomasovic evaluates decoupling in the broader context of a general national energy strategy.

Upcoming Events

February 3-4 – UT Energy Forum

February 17— Roundtable Luncheon with Andrew Keever of Winstead.

Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, & Energy Law

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