

Energy Market Drivers and Current Legal Issues

Agenda



REGISTRATION & NETWORKING BREAKFAST | 8:30 AM

PROGRAM | 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM

WELCOME

Tim Sullivan

KEYNOTE

Jeff Starling, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment

POST-CLOSING DISPUTES IN ENERGY M&A

Tom Hutchison

HOW TO AVOID TITLE PITFALLS

Failure to Launch: Why Many Oklahoma Title Examiners Don't Hitch Their Wagons to Rocket v. Donabar

Talitha Ebrite

The Hidden Time Bomb in Your Land Transaction: How Landmen Can Mitigate Risk from the Rule Against Perpetuities

Alex Telarik and Ethan Mock

CYBERSECURITY AND PRIVACY: TRENDS AND ISSUES IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY

Jason Seay and Joseph Lang

KNOW THE GROUND YOU'RE ON: TRIBAL SEVERANCE TAXES

Dean Luthey (TUL) and Gerard D'Emilio (OKC)

NEPA'S MIDLIFE CRISIS: REINVENTION, RETRENCHMENT, AND REGULATORY DRAMA

Tim Sowecke and Tyler Self

WASTE NOT WANT NOT: A RISING TIDE OF WATER AND SOLID WASTE ISSUES CONFRONTING THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Brooks Richardson and Rosie Garner

Speaker Biographies



KEYNOTE SPEAKER | JEFF STARLING

Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment

Jeff Starling is the Secretary of Energy and Environment for the State of Oklahoma. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chief Legal and Administrative Officer and Corporate Secretary at Lagoon Water Midstream, where he helped lead the company through a full investment cycle to a successful exit by a private equity investor.

Before transitioning to Lagoon in 2019, Jeff worked as an in-house attorney, most recently as Assistant General Counsel at Devon Energy Corporation, where he oversaw and directed the company's litigation and supported the company's operating business units. Earlier in his career, he was a partner in the litigation department of McGuireWoods LLP in Richmond, Virginia. Jeff also has lived and worked in Washington, D.C., as a legislative aide to former U.S. Senator John W. Warner (R-VA), and in Roanoke, Virginia, as a law clerk to former U.S. District Court Judge Samuel G. Wilson.



GERARD D'EMILIO

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Gerard D'Emilio is a Shareholder at GableGotwals, where his practice focuses on a wide range of litigation and appellate matters. Before joining Gable as an attorney, Gerard served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Jerome Holmes, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and the Honorable David L. Russell, United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. Gerard also served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Robert E. Bacharach, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.



TALITHA EBRITE

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Talitha Ebrite is a Shareholder at GableGotwals, where her practice is devoted to commercial contracts and oil and gas title examination, including drilling, division order, and acquisition title opinions. She serves as SBA 504 loan closing counsel for Certified Development Companies.

Talitha previously served as in-house counsel at a publicly traded energy company, where she supported the exploration and production function with respect to both litigation and transactional matters.

Speaker Biographies



ROSIE GARNER

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Rosie Garner is an Associate at GableGotwals. Her practice focuses on a wide range of litigation matters, including corporate litigation, energy law, and environmental law. She has represented clients in a wide range of litigation matters, including disputes over oil and gas leases and mineral interests, commercial contract disputes, and state and federal interpleader actions.

Before coming to law school, Rosie earned her Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology with a minor in Spanish from the University of Oklahoma. She went on to receive a Master of Science degree in microbiology, also from the University of Oklahoma, where she worked as a research assistant for several years, focusing her research on microbiological methane cycling in the environment.



TOM HUTCHISON

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Tom Hutchison is a Shareholder at GableGotwals, where his practice focuses on business transactional matters. In the energy sector, Tom advises lenders and borrowers on traditional unsecured and secured credit facilities, and also advises clients on “drillco,” “drill carry,” joint ventures, and other less-traditional financing transactions.

In addition, he counsels E&P and midstream companies on M&A matters and on day-to-day operations, such as farmouts, joint operating agreements, leasing and conveyances, and gathering, processing, and transportation agreements. Tom's E&P and midstream clients include a number of private equity-backed E&P and midstream portfolio companies, as well as large publicly-traded companies.



JOSEPH LANG

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Joseph Lang is Of Counsel at GableGotwals, where he practices commercial litigation and advises clients in labor and employment matters. Joe has extensive experience in general civil litigation in both state and federal court, representing clients in commercial contract disputes, insurance defense, and civil appeals. For nearly a decade, he has successfully represented clients as lead attorney through all stages of litigation, from evidentiary hearings and trials to appeals.

In addition to his civil litigation experience, Joe served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable John E. Dowdell and the Honorable Terence C. Kern in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Speaker Biographies



DEAN LUTHEY

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Dean Luthey is a Shareholder at GableGotwals. He is a 45-year litigator who has been recognized repeatedly by his peers and clients for his litigation experience including in commercial and Native American law.

He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, various federal circuits, multiple state appellate courts, and has handled matters in federal and state trial courts and agencies across the country. Among his clients have been major energy companies, Fortune 500 companies, Indian tribes and their leaders, national churches, state and local governmental entities, insurance companies, Big 4 accounting firms, law firms, and health care providers. For over a decade, Dean served as general counsel of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association.



ETHAN MOCK

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Ethan Mock is Of Counsel at GableGotwals. His practice focuses on a wide range of matters involving administrative and regulatory law, Native American law, energy and natural resources, and oil and gas title and leasing matters. He has experience in oil and gas lease processing, administrative appeals, and both tribal and federal regulatory compliance.

Prior to joining the Firm, Ethan worked for the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where he supervised oil and gas leasing operations across the region, including new lease approvals, assignments, and permitting. Before his tenure with the BIA, he was in private practice for nine years, where he garnered a strong background in oil and gas law.



BROOKS RICHARDSON

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Brooks Richardson is a Shareholder at GableGotwals. His practice focuses on complex business litigation, including energy and environmental litigation, joint venture and royalty disputes, employment, indemnity, insurance coverage, and insurance bad faith litigation, and class actions involving the above disputes. In addition, Brooks leverages his prior experience as in-house counsel to provide general legal counsel on regulatory compliance, contract and vendor management, records and information governance, privacy and cybersecurity, crisis response and business continuity planning, employment law, and enterprise risk management.

Prior to joining the Firm, Brooks was the Vice President & Deputy General Counsel of Continental Resources, Inc. He also served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Dean Whipple in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri.

Speaker Biographies



JASON SEAY, AIGP, CIPP-US

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Jason Seay is Of Counsel at GableGotwals. He has experience advising clients on healthcare regulatory compliance, data privacy and security, artificial intelligence governance, and broader regulatory matters. His background includes HIPAA compliance, breach response, data governance, AI implementation, software compliance, and the negotiation of commercial and provider agreements.

Prior to joining the Firm, Jason held in-house legal and compliance leadership roles at companies including GeneDx, a global genetics and diagnostics company, and DaVita, a leading healthcare provider. He also served as Associate General Counsel for a regional health system in Alaska and represented state agencies as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma.



TYLER SELF

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Tyler Self is an Associate at GableGotwals, where his practice focuses on environmental and natural resources law. Tyler's experience includes, but is not limited to, the Clean Air Act (CAA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and other state rules and regulations.

His practice also includes negotiations with federal and state agencies, assessing and counseling on air, water, stormwater, and waste permit compliance, including representing clients at contested permit enforcement and related hearings, and assisting with the negotiation of the allocation of environmental risks affecting transactions.



TIM SOWECKE

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Tim Sowecke is a Shareholder at GableGotwals, where he advises clients on complex energy and environmental matters, with a focus on litigation and regulatory compliance at both the state and federal levels. Tim represents clients in the energy, chemical, manufacturing, real estate, and agricultural sectors in matters involving the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, RCRA, CERCLA (Superfund), TSCA, NEPA, and other federal and state environmental statutes.

He has significant experience managing environmental contamination issues involving soil, water, and air. Tim works closely with scientific experts on environmental investigations, regulatory compliance and enforcement issues, and litigation, including disputes involving legacy contamination, Superfund sites, and emerging contaminants such as PFAS. He also advises on PFAS risk assessments and mitigation, including supply chain and waste management strategies.

Speaker Biographies



TIM SULLIVAN

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Tim Sullivan is a Shareholder at GableGotwals. He represents companies in complex commercial and civil litigation, with a focus on the oil and gas industry. He has extensive experience representing publicly traded oil and gas companies in litigation in state and federal courts nationwide.

Tim is a Vice Chair for the Institute for Energy Law's Executive Committee. He has participated in the IEL's second leadership class in 2019-2020, served as co-chair of the IEL's Young Energy Professionals' Law Conference in October 2021, and most recently co-chaired the IEL's 9th Annual Midstream Oil & Gas Law Conference in December 2025.



ALEX TELARIK

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Alex Telarik is a Shareholder at GableGotwals. He advises clients across the economic spectrum, with a particular focus on Oklahoma's oil and gas industry. His clients range from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses and individuals.

Alex's energy litigation practice includes experience with a wide range of complex matters, including environmental issues such as pollution and remediation, royalty and title disputes, and the Oklahoma Surface Damages Act. His business litigation experience includes shareholder and partnership disputes, theft of trade secrets and other confidential business information, cyber-related wire fraud, real estate litigation, and other complex business disputes.