

ENERGY - Oil & Gas

Straightforward Counsel for a Complicated Business

With constant change in the industry, you need a legal partner with focus and precision. That's why we've built a diverse and collaborative team of more than 70 attorneys and government relations professionals who understand your business and the types of legal solutions you need.

As the oil and gas industry continues to change the globe, global and local changes continue to affect the oil and gas industry. Litigation related to contracts and regulatory issues is another concern you deal with regularly. Industry regulation has added unprecedented layers of complexity in both transactions and compliance at all levels. More than ever, you need legal partners who will recognize opportunities, provide a detailed map, open the road ahead, and fuel success no matter the current climate.

How We Can Help You

Whatever your role in the oil and gas industry, your company grows only as successfully as you can seize business opportunities and manage transactions, regulations and conflicts. What is your company doing to take advantage of opportunities that continue to arise no matter what the cycles of the oil and gas business bring? Our attorneys can provide a legal strategy needed to keep the key industry players busy and profitable. We know every segment of the industry.

Marcellus, Utica & Beyond

The Marcellus Shale, Utica and Appalachian Basin shale plays have had a dramatic impact on the global energy picture and on the companies involved. We have been at the center of Marcellus and Utica activity, helping the key participants with forming entities, acquiring and selling leases, financing, operational matters, complex litigation, regulatory and government challenges, and much more. This is our backyard, and we know every inch of it. That experience extends beyond the boundaries of the most prolific gas play and across the new U.S. energy landscape into Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming and other energy hubs.

Land Use, Environmental Regulation and Beyond

You're no stranger to regulations. We know this territory at every level and will keep you in compliance. We've provided general representation to companies for all zoning and related approvals for hundreds of wells, thousands of miles of pipeline and critical infrastructure like water storage and impoundments and water-withdraw facilities. We can get your operations moving faster.

The Road to Success is Paved with Solid Shale M&A Experience

One key to how we support clients is through efficient and cost-effective management of complex, large-scale shale M&A projects that may involve massive amounts of data. Using systems we developed, we've helped clients acquire or sell millions of mineral acres while helping them validate good mineral title, resulting in savings to our clients of more than a billion dollars. Over the last few years, our team of lawyers and title specialists vetted nearly 100,000 Appalachian Basin oil and gas titles and certified thousands of leasehold titles.

Keeping the Pipelines Pumping

Pipeline infrastructure is critically important to oil and gas development. Getting products to markets and end users is more complex today than laying a line. Modern, sophisticated midstream expansion requires a bedrock of sound legal and government relations professionals. We can handle:

Mergers & acquisitions / New pipeline construction projects / Governmental licensing, permitting and approvals at every level / Easement and right-of-way agreements / EPC contracts, equipment sales and rental agreements, pipeline installation and pipeline interconnect agreements / Federal Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency compliance / Rate and tariff hearings / Title review / Fuel supply agreements / Tax, customs and related rights / Litigation - regulatory and commercial

Your Workforce is Your Core

You value your workforce – they're the core of your business. Our team of labor and employment attorneys has experience working for companies in HR and labor relations roles and is uniquely positioned to tackle any employment challenge that may arise. We can handle immigration issues, traditional labor relations, employee benefits, employment counseling, restricted covenants, and more.

Every Dispute Matters

How you handle disputes can impact your bottom line or even determine the success of your company. We're here to help you find the solution. For more than five generations, our high-profile wins have paved the way for national and regional energy companies to operate successfully in the Marcellus and Utica shale plays and beyond.

With more than \$28 billion worth of shale-era transactions under our belt, we've earned the title of the "go-to" energy law firm for transactions in the Appalachian Basin. But wins in energy hubs like Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming and more are earning us a reputation nationally as well.

ADVANCING OUR CLIENTS' GOALS

When State Law and Local Jurisdictions Collide

Pennsylvania's Act 13 was an attempt to bring state-wide uniformity to the treatment of oil and gas operations and local zoning ordinances. When a township attempted to prevent a seismic company from performing its work and questioned the constitutionality of Act 13, our attorneys achieved a significant Commonwealth Court victory – a first-of-its-kind victory – for the oil and gas industry. The court's opinion allowed the client to conduct all of its operations and provided injunctive relief from municipal regulations.

Defending the Industry

We've successfully defended oil companies in more than 100 litigated cases involving leaking underground storage tanks. And we represented a major petroleum manufacturer in disputes over responsibility for environmental remediation of 16 leased service station properties and their subsequent purchase by our client for about \$12 million after a credit for some remedial costs.

Serving as In-House Counsel

A Fortune 15 international energy company looked to us as an extension of their team, serving as their in-house counsel. We took the lead on securities law issues, financings, acquisition and divestiture of a diverse portfolio of energy companies and properties, and financing of floating production vessels.

The Importance of Definitions

For more than 100 years, a state law presumed that for land conveyance purposes natural gas is not a mineral. We achieved a unanimous state supreme court ruling that natural gas could in fact be deemed a mineral in deeds and leases. One of the most vital decisions made in the energy industry that year.

A Really Big Deal

In an exceptionally large transaction, we served as counsel to a Global 100 energy company in its \$5.4 billion acquisition of 650,000 net acres in the Marcellus Shale.