Training the future lawyers and leaders of the energy sector

The LSU John P. Laborde Energy Law Center, the first such center in Louisiana and one of a handful in law schools nationwide, prepares leaders and lawyers for the energy sector and the full range of 21st century practice in the complex world of energy law.

Update on the Center

Graduate Certificate in Energy Law & Policy

The LSU Law Center now offers J.D. students the opportunity to pursue a Graduate Certificate in Energy Law & Policy (effective Fall 2014). The coursework includes both foundational energy law courses (12 hours) and elective courses (6 or more hours), as well as research and writing, applied learning experiences, and service with the Laborde Energy Law Center. Currently, 30 students are enrolled in the certificate program.

News & Events

Center Hosts 2nd Annual Liskow & Lewis Visiting Professorship in Energy Law Lecture

The second annual Liskow & Lewis Visiting Professorship in Energy Law Lecture was held at the LSU Law Center on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. This visiting professorship, established through a generous gift from the Liskow & Lewis law firm, provides funds to bring distinguished scholars in energy law to the Law Center annually as part of the educational mission of the Center.

This year's lecture addressed the topic of "Sustainable Oil and Gas Development" and was co-presented by Mark Boling and Scott Anderson. Mark Boling is the Executive Vice President of Southwestern Energy Company and the President of Southwestern’s V+ Development Solutions division. Scott Anderson is the senior policy advisor for the Environmental Defense Fund's U.S. Climate and Energy Program, where he specializes in policies relating to natural gas development and the geological sequestration of carbon dioxide.

LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resource Hosts Inaugural Conference

The LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources is a student-edited journal at the LSU Law Center committed to developing and promoting scholarship in the purview of energy law. The Journal hosted its first Comparative Offshore Oil & Gas Conference on March 12-13, 2015. The conference brought together legal experts from the United Kingdom, Norway, and the United States to examine and compare salient aspects of the offshore regulatory system of each nation. The conference included presentations on the following topics: “The UK, the Wood Review, and Massive Change;” “Oil and Gas Licensing;” “Third Party Access to Offshore Infrastructure;” “Oil and Gas Terms;” and “Environment, Health & Safety.” The various speakers are separately working on articles that will be published in a special edition of the LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources following the conference.

Law Center Convenes 62nd Annual Mineral Law Institute

The 62nd Annual Mineral Law Institute was held at the LSU Law Center on March 19-20, 2015. The Mineral Law Institute was created in 1953 and is the second oldest annual oil and gas law conference in the nation. It is well-known for the high caliber of speakers and papers presented each year. The institute typically draws more than 300 lawyers, landmen, and energy industry professionals each Spring. This year, the Institute featured 13 presentations, with topics that included changes in natural gas markets, controversies regarding local government efforts to regulate oil and gas activity, proposed changes to rules governing groundwater, legislative reforms relating to oilfield contamination litigation, recent developments relating to pooling and utilization, and the much-anticipated annual oil and gas update.

Students Gain Experience Through Summer 2014 Internships

During the Summer of 2014, several students of the Laborde Energy Law Center participated in internships in Washington, D.C. Michael Neuner and Gavin Dunn worked at Resources for the Future (RFF), a nonprofit and nonpartisan think tank that seeks to improve environmental and natural resource policymaking worldwide through objective social science research of the highest caliber. The RFF internships were focused on environmental regulation and the permitting processes under the Clean Air Act as well as for oil and gas drilling and for the siting of liquid natural gas terminals, transmission lines, and wind farms. The research project in which Mr. Neuner participated was published in the February 2015 edition of the RFF Discussion Paper titled, “EPA’s New Source Review Program: Evidence on Processing Time, 2002-2014.”
A third energy law student, Casey Pickell, worked at the Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Air Enforcement Office for Stationary Sources. Mr. Pickell was tasked with analyzing and accurately summarizing the technical processes related to two different particulate matter monitoring systems for use in Clean Air Act consent decree negotiations. Later in the summer, while still interning for the EPA, Mr. Pickell also interned at Edison Electric Institute, where he worked extensively on the EPA’s proposed Clean Air Act rule for reducing carbon emissions at existing power plants.

Professor Keith Hall: Scholarship and Presentations
Professor Keith Hall is the Campanile Charities Assistant Professor of Law. His recent scholarship and presentations have focused on legal issues relating to hydraulic fracturing and other aspects of oil and gas activity. He has published articles on topics such as the state laws requiring disclosure of fracturing water composition, regulations requiring the baseline testing of groundwater quality prior to oil and gas activity, and the regulation of hydraulic fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act. His most recent work has addressed two cutting-edge topics – legal issues related to induced seismicity (manmade earthquakes) occasionally caused by energy industry activities and the question of whether an oil and gas operator is subject to liability for subsurface trespass if its fracturing operations cause fractures to extend into the subsurface of a neighboring property. Professor Hall has published and presented on these and other traditional oil and gas topics at various, prestigious conferences in 2014 and 2015, including the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation’s Annual Institute, the Society of Petroleum Engineers Hydraulic Fracturing Technology Conference, the Unconventional Resources Technology Conference, the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Pooling and Utilization Conference, and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation’s Annual Oil and Gas Short Course. Finally, Professor Hall is presently organizing the program for the 62nd Annual Mineral Law Institute and assisting the LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources with preparation for its comparative energy law conference, both of which conferences will take place at the LSU Law Center in March 2015.

Professor Blake Hudson: Research and Scholarship
Professor Hudson, the Burlington Resources Associate Professor in Environmental Law and Edward J. Womac, Jr. Associate Professor in Energy Law, holds joint appointment with the LSU School of the Coast and Environment. He has published numerous articles on how property, land use, and natural resources law and policy intersect with environmental and constitutional law, with specific focus on the issue of federalism as it relates to land use and the environment. One branch of his research centers on “commons” scholarship and the complicated role of private property rights and government institutions as solutions to commons dilemmas. His research further assesses how the issues of federalism and constitutional structure have the potential to both complicate and resolve land use and natural resource management issues at the state, federal, and international levels, with particular emphasis on forests, natural capital impacted by direct land use planning, and the legal and political institutions established to govern those resources. Recent works include:


Professor Robert Sloan: Teaching and Presentations
In addition to his LSU Law teaching, over the past six months Professor Robert Sloan has developed and taught intense, highly focused courses on International Energy Law and Regulation; International Petroleum Law; and International Arbitration with focus on the energy industry. These courses have been sponsored by “Misr International For Human Resources Development & Studies” in Cairo, Egypt where all of the training has taken place. Participants in these programs are senior energy company executives in the Egyptian national oil and gas companies and at the Suez-Mediterranean Pipeline Company. A follow up course in Cairo will take place over the next several months.

In addition, Professor Sloan made a presentation on a number of aspects – legal, sociological, and political – of the Alfred Dreyfus Affair in July, 2014 at the University of Paris (Paris Dauphine). This presentation took place on the 120th anniversary of the first Dreyfus trial in Paris.

The LSU Energy Law Center
provides an integrative, multidisciplinary approach to energy law concentration. Students pursuing the Certificate in Energy Law and Policy are “prepared for practice” and ready to assist with complex projects involving teams of interdisciplinary professionals. The Energy Law Center is led by three dynamic faculty members, Professor Robert Sloan, Professor Keith Hall, and Professor Blake Hudson.

The academic and research center is named in honor of John P. Laborde (’49), a well-known New Orleans civic leader and leader of Louisiana’s energy sector, who guided Tidewater Marine for 40 years.