

Oil & Gas

We represent major oil and gas companies, independents and landowners in disputes and lawsuits, ranging from individual tract claims to nationwide class actions.

Building on firm history dating back nearly a century, McGinnis Lochridge lawyers have dealt with the developing issues in unconventional shale plays throughout Texas and North America. Our recent work in the Eagle Ford shale trend builds on decades of a strong firm presence in courtrooms throughout South Texas. We also work regularly with Texas governmental agencies including the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as well as local municipalities and water districts.

Our litigation experience includes disputes over mineral title ownership, operating agreements, surface use and damages, water use, pipeline right-of-way and condemnation, bad faith pooling, oil and gas lease covenants, lease forfeiture, royalty underpayment and pricing, salt water disposal, and environmental damages and cleanup. Our attorneys have extensive experience in matters involving trade secret disputes in the oil and gas industry.

Practice Contact

Jonathan Baughman

Professionals

Travis Barton

Jonathan Baughman

Kevin M. Beiter

Austin Brister

Paul D. Clote

Doug Dodds

Felicity A. Fowler

Tim George

William K. Grubb

Chris Halgren

Donald D. Jackson

Russell Johnson

Logan Jones

Bruce Kramer

April Lucas

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The attorneys in our Oil & Gas Practice Group have the expertise needed to translate difficult technical evidence into plain language. We have a deep understanding of geology, hydrology, geophysics, log analysis, drilling and reservoir engineering, pipeline and gas plant operations, and rock mechanics.

View our Oil & Gas Practice Group brochure here and our Oil & Gas CLE Brochure here.

Oil & Gas Newsletter

Our Oil & Gas Newsletter: Producer's Edge provides our clients and contacts with insightful articles and updates regarding recent Texas oil and gas case law, regulatory matters, and other issues relevant to the oil and gas community. View recent publications here.

You may also view recent articles on our blog, Oil and Gas Law Digest.

News

Jonathan Baughman, Program Co-Chair of the Upcoming Special Institute: "Law of Permian Basin Oil & Gas Development and Operations."
05.17.2023

Producer's Edge: SCOTX Rules in Another Post-Production Royalty Case; Clarifies Prior Burlington Opinion
07.14.2022

Producer's Edge: Lease Termination Case turns on meaning of "Leased Premises"
07.07.2022

Producer's Edge: Tips for Mediating Your Next Oil & Gas Dispute
06.08.2022

Producer's Edge: Interpretation of Separate Lease Clause Leads to Lease Termination
06.01.2022

Don Magee
Jordan Mullins
Derrick Price
Alejandra Salas
Sky Andrew Scherer
Curt H. Schwake
Paul Simpson
Elias M. Yazbeck

Areas Of Concentration

Oil & Gas Acquisitions and Divestitures
Oil & Gas Litigation
Oil & Gas Regulatory
Oil & Gas Transactions

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Producer's Edge: Emerging Issues in the Use and Disposal of Water
05.25.2022

Producer's Edge: Three Tips for Responding to Third Party Subpoenas in the Energy Industry
05.18.2022

Producer's Edge: Recent Case Addresses Tortious Interference Claims and Top Leases
05.11.2022

Austin Brister and Derrick Price Speaking at 48th Annual Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Institute
04.18.2022

The Best Lawyers in America 2022 Recognizes 18 McGinnis Lochridge Attorneys
August 19, 2021

Five McGinnis Lochridge Attorneys Recognized as 2021 Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars
March 9, 2021

McGinnis Lochridge recognized in *Chambers USA 2020* Rankings
April 23, 2020

McGinnis Lochridge Oil & Gas Attorneys to Speak at TexasBar CLE 37th Annual Course on Advanced Oil, Gas and Energy Resource Law
September 18, 2019

Partner Donald Jackson Quoted in Law360 "Pa. High Court Fracking Trespass Case Has Drillers On Alert"
September 12, 2019

McGinnis Lochridge Welcomes William K. Grubb in Houston
August 12, 2019

McGinnis Lochridge Featured in Law360 and San Antonio Business Journal for Securing \$44 Million Win for Client
July 19, 2019

Bruce Kramer To Present at Texas Tech Law School Roswell CLE
May 1, 2019

Partner Don Jackson Quoted in Law360 "Permian Ripe For Mergers As Big Oil Aims For Prime Assets"
April 16, 2019

Partner Jonathan Baughman Quoted by Bloomberg on Houston Chemical Blaze
March 21, 2019

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Four McGinnis Lochridge Attorneys Recognized as 2019 Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars
March 7, 2019

Can A Driller Trespass While Fracking On Its Own Lease? Partner Don Jackson Discusses Underground Trespass in Law360
January 31, 2019

Partner Jonathan Baughman Quoted in Law360 “Texas Cases to Watch in 2019”
January 2, 2019

Partner Jonathan Baughman Talks with Law360 About Two Cases Before Texas Supreme Court
September 7, 2018

Texas Supreme Court Settles Long-running Multi-million Dollar Case
June 26, 2018

McGinnis Lochridge continues year of exceptional growth with addition of prominent trial lawyers; opens Dallas office
June 5, 2018

Law360 Reports on Texas Supreme Court Affirms Lower Court’s Ruling Concerning Royalties in *Samson Exploration LLC v. T.S. Reed Properties Inc.*
July 7, 2017

Chambers & Partners Ranks McGinnis Lochridge Oil & Gas Regulatory and Litigation Practice Ranks Band 1
June 14, 2017

Production in Paying Quantities Discussed at Next HBA Oil Gas & Mineral Section Meeting
May 24, 2017

El Paso Court of Appeals Holding Re: Jurisdiction for Pre-Injury Injunctive Relief Against Permitted Injection Wells
January 25, 2017

Attorney Austin Brister Discusses SCOTX Opinion on *Denbury v. Texas Rice*
January 18, 2017

McGinnis Lochridge Expands with New Talent in Austin and Houston
October 4, 2016

Partner Tim George presented at the State Bar of Texas 34th Annual Advanced Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Course
September 29, 2016

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Associate Austin Brister presenting at 7th HAPL Annual Shale Play Seminar on September 29th
September 28, 2016

Pat Lochridge named the University of Texas Law School's Outstanding Alumnus for 2016
September 2, 2016

Jonathan Baughman to Speak at Upcoming CAIL Conference in November
August 29, 2016

Tim George named "Lawyer of the Year – Natural Resources Law" in Austin, TX by *Best Lawyers*
August 17, 2016

Best Lawyers Names 11 "Best Lawyers"
August 17, 2016

Former McGinnis Lochridge Partner & Current Exxon General Counsel Jack Balagia featured in *Law360*

August 8, 2016

August 9, 2016

Law360 Quotes Paul Simpson in "Texas Oil Royalty Owner Faces Reduced Damages In \$21M Suit"
March 16, 2016

McGinnis Lochridge Selected to 2016 Best Law Firm by U.S. News Best Lawyers®
November 2, 2015

Join McGinnis Lochridge Attorney Austin Brister at the 2015 Landscape Discussion on Energy Law & Policy in the Rockies Conference, as he speaks on "Energy Transitions in a Low Price Environment – Mitigating Uncertainty and Risk".
October 2015

High Court Declines Review of Dispute Over Oil Deed Interpretation: Jonathan Baughman, Partner and Chris Halgren, Associate of McGinnis Lochridge featured in an article in *Texas Lawyer*.
October 14, 2015

Partner Jonathan Baughman and Associate Austin Brister published in *Law360* forecasting rise in royalty and lease termination litigation amidst prolonged oil slump.
September 25, 2015

Chambers & Partners Names SCG Legal Top Law Firm Network in the U.S
June 12, 2015

McGinnis Lochridge Names Three New Partners
January 19, 2015

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McGinnis Lochridge Partner elected as Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Trustee-at-Large
August 14, 2014

Legal Update: Recent Developments in Non-Regulatory Oil & Gas Law
American Association of Professional Landmen, Southwest Land Institute
May 6, 2014

McGinnis Lochridge Attorneys Obtain Judgment for Clients in Eagle Ford Play
October 22, 2012

Jonathan Baughman to Speak at Advanced In-House Counsel Seminar
May 21, 2012

Bruce Kramer and Russell Johnson speak at 3rd Annual Law of Shale Plays Conference
May 16, 2012

Fourteen McGinnis Lochridge Practice Areas Make 2012 List of Best Law Firms in U.S.
November 3, 2011

Ten McGinnis Lochridge Practice Areas Make 2010 List of Best Law Firms in U.S., a U.S. News & World Report
Publication
September 20, 2010

Partner Russell Johnson Will Speak to the Texas Bankers Association Real Estate and Oil & Gas Conference
February 26, 2010

Publications

Lay or Expert Testimony as to Lost Returns from a Well? Corpus Christi Holds the “Property Owner Rule”
Inapplicable
Producer's Edge, 11.20.2023

Reservation in Favor of Stranger Held Void; Estoppel-By-Deed Theory Not Supported by Evidence
Producer's Edge, 11.13.2023

SCOTX Reviews Force Majeure Issues in Continuous Development Case
Producer's Edge, 08.22.2023

How Do Texas Courts Measure Contractual Periods?
Texas oil and gas law insights, 05.19.2023

SCOTX Adopts New Rebuttable Presumption Governing Double-Fraction Deed Cases
Texas oil and gas law insights, 03.01.2023

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Producers Edge Vol. 4 Issue 1
04.08.2022

McGinnis Lochridge Oil & Gas Newsletter: Producer's Edge, Vol. 3, Issue 1
04.27.2021

McGinnis Lochridge Oil & Gas Newsletter: Producer's Edge, Vol. 2, Issue 2
May 12, 2020

McGinnis Lochridge recognized in *Chambers USA 2020* Rankings
April 23, 2020

McGinnis Lochridge Oil & Gas Newsletter: Producer's Edge, Vol. 2, Issue 1
February 10, 2020

Austin Brister Speaks to Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation
February 3, 2020

Partner Jonathan Baughman Quoted in Law360 Article "6 Texas Supreme Court Oil and Gas Cases To Watch"
September 16, 2019

Oil & Gas Newsletter: Producer's Edge, Vol. 1, Issue 2
August 1, 2019

Partner Don Jackson Quoted in Law360 "Permian Ripe For Mergers As Big Oil Aims For Prime Assets"
April 16, 2019

Oil & Gas Newsletter: Producer's Edge, Vol. 1, Issue 1
March 27, 2019

Partner Jonathan Baughman Quoted by Bloomberg on Houston Chemical Blaze
March 21, 2019

Can A Driller Trespass While Fracking On Its Own Lease? Partner Don Jackson Discusses Underground Trespass in Law360
January 31, 2019

Partner Jonathan Baughman Quoted in Law360 "Texas Cases to Watch in 2019"
January 2, 2019

Partner Jonathan Baughman Talks with Law360 About Two Cases Before Texas Supreme Court
September 7, 2018

Chris Halgren and Austin Brister Injection Well Article Featured in NODOA Newsletter
March 20, 2017

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Bruce Kramer Presenting at Texas A&M 2017 Energy Law Symposium
March 8, 2017

High Court Declines Review of Dispute Over Oil Deed Interpretation: Jonathan Baughman, Partner and Chris Halgren, Associate of McGinnis Lochridge featured in an article in Texas Lawyer.
October 14, 2015

Author & Presenter, *2014 - 2015 Case Law & Legislative Update*, Southwest Land Institute, American Association of Professional Landmen, Dallas, TX
April 27, 2015

Author and Speaker, *Discovery Issues in Oil & Gas Litigation*, TexasBarCLE Oil & Gas Disputes Course, State Bar of Texas, Houston, Texas
January 8-9, 2015
January 8, 2021

Author, *Oil & Gas Lease Perpetuation: Operating, Reworking, Maintaining, and Production*
December 17, 2014

Legal Update: Recent Developments in Non-Regulatory Oil & Gas Law
American Association of Professional Landmen, Southwest Land Institute
May 6, 2014

Production Allocation Issues: Non-Participating Royalty Interest Owners in Vertically and Horizontally Pooled Units
40th Annual Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Institute, Houston, Texas (March 2014)
May 6, 2014

Oil & Gas Alert: Merriman v. XTO Energy, Inc.
July 2, 2013

Texas Homestead and Probate Law
May 2, 2013

COPAS Accounting Procedures: Legal Issues in the Past and Legal Issues that Might Arise in the Future
Section Report of the Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
October 1, 2012

Here's What's New!! "Reeder v. Wood County Energy, LLC, et al."
Oil & Gas Alert, McGinnis Lochridge & Kilgore, LLP
September 1, 2012

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Attorney-Client Privilege and its Impact on the In-House Client Relationship
State Bar of Texas 11th Annual Advanced In-House Counsel Course, Texas Bar CLE
August 2, 2012

The Prudent Operator Standard in the 21st Century
58th Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation
July 20, 2012

Relinquishment Act Lands and Owners of the Soil: Statutory Framework and Case Law Update
54th Annual Short Course, Texas Concrete and Aggregate Association
February 1, 2012

Texas Pooling Overview
Dallas Bar Association Energy Law Section
January 1, 2008

Navigating the Pooling Clause Waters: New and Recurring Issues
22nd Annual Energy Law Institute, South Texas College of Law
July 1, 2007

The Legal Framework for Analyzing Multiple Surface Use Issues
Houston Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal
April 1, 2007

Oil and Gas Class Actions in Louisiana and the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005
54th Louisiana Mineral Law Institute
April 1, 2007

Underground Hydrocarbon Storage in Texas
33rd Annual Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Institute
March 1, 2007

COPAS and the 2005 COPAS Accounting Procedure - Significant Changes for Changing Times
Texas State Bar Section Report: Oil Gas and Energy Resources Law
March 1, 2005

Depth Limitations - Saying What You Mean: Words, Phrases and Tools for Ownership that Changes with Depth
29th Annual Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Institute
March 1, 2003

Interest Due Under Texas Oil and Gas Leases
American Institute of Business Law, Oil and Gas Law 2002
May 9, 2002