Editor's Introduction and Front Pages

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Editor’s Introduction

Welcome to the first Issue of Volume 5 of the Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal, the current Editorial Board’s first publication. This light summer issue contains an Energy Litigation Update from outstanding oil, gas, and energy attorney Mark Christiansen and one student-authored comment from Daniel Tavera.

The first piece is a Litigation Update by Mark Christiansen, which he originally presented at the 2018 Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy. The Litigation Update is comprehensive, examining changes regarding non-operator and operator rights, computation of gas royalty payments, and the resolution of oil and gas lease termination claims. Additionally, the Update contains developments regarding the rejection of midstream service contracts in bankruptcy proceedings and the Extended Horizontal Well Development Act, formerly the Shale Reservoir Development Act.

The second piece is a student-authored comment from Daniel Tavera. The comment explores the different ways bankruptcy courts may classify oil and gas leases and how the disparate treatment may result in a party losing its property interest in the event of bankruptcy. The author describes how a court’s failure to treat an oil and gas lease as a conveyance of a real property interest may leave the debtor free to assume or reject the interest during bankruptcy proceedings. The comment explains how this result might deter potential investors in oil and gas ventures.

As always, the Journal concludes with summaries of cases within the oil and gas, natural resources, and energy law fields. For other updates about the Journal, follow us on Twitter @ONEJ_OULaw, as well as the ONE-J Blog, which includes short-form pieces on rapidly emerging topics that the Journal typically covers. For more information, the Blog can be found at https://ouonej.wordpress.com/.

The Journal would like to thank all of the administration and staff at the University of Oklahoma College of Law for their continued support and encouragement. Without your help, the Journal would not be able to provide our readers with the content that it does. Most importantly, the Journal thanks Mr. Michael Waters, our editorial advisor, for his expertise, guidance, support, and more. You give the Journal shape and life.

Thank you,
Veronica Threadgill
Editor-in-Chief
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