Developing Students to Become Effective Lawyers

A frequent question is: what does a “Center” do? The Washburn Law Oil and Gas Law Center exists to provide students with educational experiences that assist them in becoming effective lawyers. The Center consists of:

• An extensive curriculum in oil and gas law and related disciplines;

• A cadre of over one-hundred lawyers and industry professionals that donate their time to teach students oil and gas law outside the traditional classroom setting;

• A program that allows students to travel and attend professional conferences where they can learn and interact with lawyers and potential employers;

• A program that highlights Washburn students by allowing them to participate in shaping issues, teaching, and engaging in dialogue with others regarding the subjects they are studying;

• A program that assists students in obtaining scholarships and travel funds to support their legal education;

• A program that equips students with credentials that assist them in competing for employment; and

• A program where students observe first-hand what it means to be a “professional” and to be part of a legal discipline where lawyers love what they do and are always seeking ways to do it better.

This Director’s Annual Report for the 2014-15 academic year highlights how the Center has been accomplishing these goals.

The Oil and Gas Law Center’s mission is to provide course offerings and extracurricular activities that assist students in becoming proficient oil and gas lawyers.

Director’s Annual Report

One of the Oil and Gas Law Center’s biggest supporters is the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. As this Director’s Report chronicles, the Foundation has also been a long term supporter of Washburn, its students, and its graduates.

Since 1991, when Washburn Law became a governing member, the Foundation has provided Washburn and its students with scholarships, travel funds, and program grants totaling over $250,000.

As part of the Foundation’s student scholarship program, scholarship

(continued on page 2)
One of the many benefits of being a Center director is the ability to work closely with students who choose to immerse themselves in a particular area of study. Through frequent interaction in and out of the classroom, a professor can learn about each student’s unique capabilities and special interests.

Professor David Pierce had the opportunity to teach and travel with Stephen Stocks, JD candidate ’16, during his 1L and 2L years of law school. While attending Washburn Law’s Mining Law course in Westminster, Colo., (see page 6), Stocks expressed an interest in pursuing a legal career in international mining. Unlike many students interested in international law, Stocks wanted to begin his career living and working outside of the U.S. He also has considerable language skills and traveled extensively before entering law school. Having this knowledge, Pierce began to look for ways to develop Stock’s credentials.

An obvious opportunity was to send Stocks to the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation’s Special Institute on “International Mining and Oil and Gas Law, Development, and Investment” in Cartagena, Colombia. First, the Foundation agreed to waive the conference fee, as it routinely does for all Washburn Law students, and registered Stocks for the program events at no charge. Second, the Center worked with Stocks to help subsidize his travel expenses. The funds used to assist Stock’s travel came from Oil and Gas Law Center donors. Third, Pierce identified a partner with a major law firm that would be attending the conference who agreed to “take Stocks under his wing,” show him around, and introduce him to the other attorneys attending the conference.

It is important to note that Stocks did not ask to attend this event. It was an event identified by his professor, who was fully aware of Stocks’ career goals, his ability, and his commitment. Working together with Stocks were Frances Hartogh, director of Outreach for the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation; a Washburn alumnus who assisted with funding; and Scot Anderson, a partner and global head of the Energy and Natural Resources Group at Hogan Lovells. Stocks was provided with a unique opportunity to learn more about the law he desires to practice while spending three days with lawyers who are doing what he hopes to do in his career.

Stocks summed up his experience by stating, “I am forever grateful to Professor Pierce and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. Thanks to the Foundation, I networked with professionals from all over the globe.”

ALASKA

(continued from page 1)

recipients attend a Foundation event of their choice with the Foundation covering the travel costs. In July, three Washburn Law students attended the Foundation’s 61st Annual Institute in Anchorage, Alaska: Courtney Kelley, ’15, Blair Loving, JD Candidate ’16, and Robert McFadden, JD Candidate ’16.

This was a three-day event where a full range of topics were addressed concerning oil and gas law, mining law, energy law, environmental law, public land law, and international law. There were 686 attendees from 36 U.S. states and 10 countries.

Professor Pierce was one of the presenters, delivering a paper titled “When the Horizontal and Vertical Collide: Frac Hits and Operator Quest for Détente in the Common Reservoir.”
Another Student Symposium First

An example of the Center’s student-focused educational program is the “student” symposium. Students research a topic, prepare a written analysis of the topic, prepare presentation materials, and then “teach” the audience about the topic during a 15-minute presentation. The first symposium, on “Vexatious Title Issues,” was a success and a wonderful learning experience for the students presenting and for those attending.

As a testament to the quality of student presentations at the first student symposium, when preparations were being made for the second student symposium it was decided to seek accreditation of the program for lawyer continuing legal education. Centers for Excellence Executive Director Shawn Leisinger worked with the Kansas CLE Commission which granted 6 hours of CLE credit for the March 2015 student symposium titled: “Mysteries of the Oil and Gas Lease.”

Nineteen students participated in the Symposium. Their names and presentation titles, in the order they presented, are as follows:

Travis Ternes, JD Candidate ’16, Contract Formation Issues: Bonus and the Agreement to Lease

Michael Lygrisse, JD Candidate ’16, Issues Associated with the Grant: What is Really Being Granted?

Courtney Kelley, ’15, Issues Associated with the Grant: Blanket Easements and Lessee Surface Use Rights

Jacob “Jake” Knight, ’15, Issues Associated with the Grant: Reversionary Rights, After-Acquired Title, Accretions, and Running Covenants

Blair Loving, JD Candidate ’16, Title Issues: Warranty Clause, Proportionate Reduction, and the Subrogation Clause

Nicholas “Max” Caldwell, ’15, Issues Associated with the Duration of the Grant: Habendum Clause; Primary Term and the Drilling/Delay Rental Clause; “Paid-Up” Lease

Nate Jiwanlal, ’15, Issues Associated with the Duration of the Grant: Maintaining the Lease by Commencing Operations

Katie Gerth, JD Candidate ’16, Issues Associated with the Duration of the Grant: The Production Requirement and the Paying Quantities Requirement

Aaron Othmer, ’15, Issues Associated with the Duration of the Grant: Shut-In Royalty Clause

Stephen Stocks, JD Candidate ’16, Issues Associated with the Duration of the Grant: Temporary Cessation

(continued on page 4)
COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:
The program was excellent. The quality of the materials and the presentations were as good as I have ever experienced in any CLE. I much appreciated the papers that each student provided for us. They were an excellent summary of the topics. I personally found the presentation format to be helpful due to the frequent changes of presenters. It kept my interest and kept the day moving quickly. Each topic flowed in a very logical fashion.

I was very impressed with all of the students. They appeared to be enjoying themselves and were so professional in their demeanor which tells me that their law school experience is a quite positive one and that they are getting a great deal of support from their professor! It makes me proud to be a WU alumni. The students should be very proud of themselves. I will be looking for more of these CLEs in the future. Thank you for this opportunity.

Doctrine and the Cessation of Production Clause

Adeel Syed, ’15, Issues Associated with the Duration of the Grant: Operations Clause and the Dry Hole Clause

Sean McElwain, JD Candidate ’16, Issues Associated with Royalty: What Does the Mineral Owner Receive; What Must They do to Receive It?

Daniel Obermeier, JD Candidate ’16, Issues Associated with Royalty: Calculation Issues

Daniel Wernert, ’15, Issues Associated with Royalty: Statutory Considerations

Ronald Manyiri, LL.M. ’15, Pooling Clause: Impacts the Grant, the Duration of the Grant, and the Royalty

Aaron Boswell, JD Candidate ’16, The Nonapportionment Problem and the Entireties Clause

Seth Jones, JD Candidate ’16, Force Majeure Clause

Jessica Gallagher ’15, Implied Covenants and Lease Operation: Drainage, Development, and Exploration

Sara Maupin, ’15, Federal Income Tax Ramifications of the Oil and Gas Leasing Process
16 Students Attend 60th Annual Institute in Vail

During the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation’s 60th Annual Institute, a reception was held for Washburn Law alumni attending the program. Back row (left to right) Stephen Tyler, ’15; Aaron Othmer, ’15; Daniel Obermeyer, JD Candidate ’16; Travis Ternes, JD Candidate ’16; Daniel Wernert, JD Candidate ’16; Jessica Gallagher, ’15; Grant Klise, ’15; Adeel Syed, ’15; Brett Robinson, ’15; Tony Ford, ’15; Tyler Turner, ’12, Jeter Law Firm, LLP, Hays, Kan.; Blair Loving, JD Candidate ’16; Bob Hoehn, ’80, Beatty & Wozniak, P.C., Denver; and Uriah Price, ’11, Crowley Fleck PLLP, Billings, Mont. Front row (left to right): Jorge De Hoyos, JD Candidate ’16; Stacy Stotts, (Chicago-Kent ’95), Stinson Leonard Street, Kansas City, Mo; Carolyn Stotts; Jack Stotts; Trina Zagar Brown, ’99, White River Electric Association, Meeker, Colo.; Matilda Brown; Juan Pablo Gordillo, ’15; Andreas von Achleitner, ’06, Equity Metrix, LLC, Dallas; Skye Nicole Johnson, ’06, Development Intelligence, Dallas; Courtney Kelley, ’15; Martha Pierce; Professor David Pierce; Dr. Rebecca Culver-Turner; Karen Atterbury; Tony Atterbury, ’01; Tim McKee, ’70, Triplett, Woolf & Garretson, LLC, Wichita; and David Cohen, JD Candidate ’16.

Brett Robinson, ’15, Tyler Turner, ’12, Travis Ternes, JD Candidate ’16, and Daniel Obermeyer, JD Candidate ’16.

Andreas von Achleitner, ’06, Skye Nicole Johnson, ’06, and Blair Loving, JD Candidate ’16.

One of the premier legal education events for natural resources lawyers worldwide is the Annual Institute of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. With travel assistance from the Foundation, 16 Washburn Law students were able to attend all events during the three-day program.

- Mohammed Abdelaziz, ’15
- David Cohen, JD Candidate ’16
- Jorge De Hoyos, JD Candidate ’16
- Tony Ford, ’15
- Jessica Gallagher, ’15
- Juan Pablo Gordillo, ’15
- Courtney Kelley, ’15
- Grant Klise, ’15
- Blair Loving, JD Candidate ’16
- Daniel Obermeyer, JD Candidate ’16
- Aaron Othmer, ’15
- Brett Robinson, ’15
- Adeel Syed, ’15
- Travis Ternes, JD Candidate ’16
- Stephen Tyler, ’15
- Daniel Wernert, JD Candidate ’16
New Oil and Gas Courses at Washburn Law

MINING LAW
Often the new oil and gas lawyer practicing in the west will also be tasked to address mining law issues. Mining law is a discipline unto itself. Until last fall, Washburn Law had never offered a mining law course.

The Center approached the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation with a proposal to conduct an accredited law school Mining Law course in conjunction with the Foundation’s mining law short course. Washburn Law faculty approved adding Mining Law to the curriculum that would be administered, examined, and graded by Professor David Pierce with the substance being taught by 30 lawyers as part of the Foundation’s Mining Law Short Course held November 3-7, 2014, in Westminster, Colo.

The Foundation also provided a grant to cover travel and living expenses to allow up to 10 Washburn students to attend the course.

The following students attended and successfully completed the course: Mohammed Abdelaziz, ’15; Jeff Akin, ’15; Tony Ford, ’15; Janay Kent, ’15; Blair Loving, JD Candidate ’16; Michaela Marine, ’15; Oluwafemi Ojo (exchange student), Aaron Othmer, ’15; Stephen Stocks, JD Candidate ’16; and Adeel Syed, ’15.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
The oil and gas industry is perfect for the study of applied environmental law. A complex mix of environmental statutes apply at each stage of the oil and gas development process. This course follows the development process from lease acquisition, exploration, drilling, production, and marketing. Whether avoiding drilling in areas that may be “wetlands” regulated by the Clean Water Act, or habitat range for a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, students learn functional environmental law that the industry must follow to effectively conduct business.

This course is team taught by David Tripp, ’71, and David Pierce. Professor Tripp is a partner with Stinson Leonard Street where he is chair of the firm’s Environment and Natural Resources Group.

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM TRANSACTIONS
The oil and gas industry was truly international almost from its inception. Whether at the exploration or at the marketing point, a large proportion of oil and gas transactions have some international component. This course introduces students to the international side of the oil and gas industry by following petroleum from the source to the end consumer. Taught as a simulation course anchored in practical workshops, the course begins with an introduction to foreign legal regimes governing petroleum exploration, development, and production. Next, it explores the framework governing the operations of international petroleum projects. It then explores the importance of negotiating an appropriate applicable law for transaction documents. It sets out the treaty framework providing additional protections to international petroleum investments. Finally, it introduces students to the basic principles of international petroleum distribution and sales and the key distinctions between oil and gas transactions.

The course is taught by Professor Freddy Sourgens.

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM ARBITRATIONS
This course introduces students to the flip side of international petroleum transactions — international petroleum disputes. These disputes are amongst the largest and most important international disputes currently litigated around the world. The course focuses on arbitration as the typical form of dispute resolution used in large transnational oil and gas projects. The course will be premised upon a single simulation running for the length of one week. The course analyzes (1) core issues for the drafting of arbitration clauses in international petroleum transactions, (2) strategy for appointing the arbitral tribunal, (3) pre-hearing procedure (including document disclosure and interim relief), (4) jurisdictional objections, and (5) how to build a persuasive merits case.

The course is taught by Professor Freddy Sourgens.
Syed’s Student Presentation a KBA First

In what is a “first” for the Kansas Bar Association (KBA), Adeel Syed, ’15, was a student presenter at the KBA’s 2015 Spring Oil, Gas, and Mineral CLE, March 6, 2015, in Hays, Kan.

The title of Syed’s presentation was “The Operating Agreement: Reviewing the Basics and Changes to Accommodate Horizontal Drilling.” The room was full of oil and gas lawyers, other interested lawyers, and several of Syed’s classmates who attended to cheer him on and learn more oil and gas law from the presenters.

Professor Pierce gave the “ethics” presentation for the conference, titled: “Ethics and the Exercise of Independent Professional Judgment When Addressing Oil and Gas Issues.”

Students Attend Annual Meeting of the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association

To familiarize students with the oil and gas industry, including the men and women who comprise the industry (their future clients), students attend the annual meeting of the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association (EKOGA) held in Mayetta, Kan.

The EKOGA Board has provided Washburn Law with an open invitation to allow students and faculty to attend the trade show, lunch, dinner, and dinner program as EKOGA’s guest. Students who attended EKOGA’s 2014 Annual Meeting were: Martin de Boer, JD Candidate ’17, Tony Ford, ’15, Meredith Fry, ’15, Jessica Gallagher, ’15, Nate Jiwanlal, ’15, Janay Kent, ’15, Matt Langworthy, JD Candidate ’17, Stephen Stocks, JD Candidate ’16, Travis Ternes, JD Candidate ’16, Stephen Tyler, ’15, Lauren Wright, JD Candidate ’17, and Coleman Younger, ’15.

Among the many displays of particular interest to students was the equipment used to conduct hydraulic fracturing.

EKOGA Pledges Support for Oil and Gas Law Center

During its annual meeting, the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association (EKOGA) announced that its Board had approved a gift to the Washburn University School of Law Oil and Gas Law Center by pledging $2,500 per year for five years to support the Center’s activities. EKOGA is aware of the extensive curricular and extracurricular programs the Center provides to Washburn Law students and desires to support the Center’s programs.

EKOGA recognizes that lawyers play an important role in the heavily-regulated and complex process of developing oil and gas. It is important to EKOGA, and its members, that lawyers representing all segments of the oil and gas industry be well trained.
Danielson and Pharo Teach Students About the Purchase and Sale of Oil and Gas Properties

On February 27, 2015, Greg Danielson and Randy Pharo with Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, were assisted by John Broomes, ’03, and Professor David Pierce, with presenting a “Short Course on How to Negotiate, Document, and Administer the Purchase and Sale of Oil & Gas Assets.” The participants analyzed the critical content of the “Purchase and Sale Agreement” and the negotiation and administration associated with any major sale of oil and gas assets.

Pharo and Danielson have extensive experience in representing clients in stock and asset transactions and walked students through a Purchase and Sale Agreement used in a recent transaction.

Broomes is with Hinkle Law Firm LLC, Wichita, where he has handled numerous oil and gas transactions involving the purchase and sale of oil and gas properties throughout the United States.

Professor Pierce focused on the basic contract law principles the parties must use and manage throughout the purchase and sale process.

Danielson and Pharo also attended and participated in Professor Pierce’s Advanced Oil and Gas Law class and also presented a Lunch & Learn discussing the practice of oil, gas, and natural resources law. They also discussed programs for law students sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. Pharo was the Foundation’s 2014-2015 president.

Students Attend Denver Special Institute on Mineral Title Examination

Seven Washburn Law students attended the April 9-10, 2015, “Nuts and Bolts of Mineral Title Examination” special institute sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation in Denver. Students had an opportunity to further their title examination knowledge and skills learned during Washburn’s Mineral Title Examination course held in January 2015.

This course was also attended by a number of recent Washburn Law graduates who are working with law firms and oil companies and working with oil, gas, and mining law title issues. Professor Pierce was also a speaker at the program addressing “Basic Conveyance Principles.”

Recognition of Center Donors Coming in January 2016 Publication

In January 2016, the Washburn Oil and Gas Law Center will officially enter its third year of programming. During this time, many individuals, law firms, foundations, companies, and associations have contributed in various ways to the success of the Center and its programs. The contributions have included time, expertise, and money. A January 2016 publication will recognize those who have been instrumental in making the Oil and Gas Law Center an important part of Washburn Law’s educational program.
2014-15 Center Events

Aug. 16-18, 2014 - Oil & Gas Conservation Law & Practice CLE, Wichita

Oct. 31, 2014 – Oil and Gas Investment Arbitrations: Protecting Oil and Gas Projects Against Political Risk Symposium, University of Houston Law Center, co-sponsored with the University of Houston Law Center and the International Law Institute

Dec. 4, 2014 – Webinar - Oil and Gas Investment in Venezuela Post-Chavez, co-sponsored with the International and Comparative Law Center

Feb. 27, 2015 – Lunch and Learn: Careers in the Oil and Gas Industry: Confessions of an Oil and Gas Lawyer, presented by Randy Pharo

March 9, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Earth 2.0: The Arrogance of Environmental Law, presented by Prof. John Nagle from Notre Dame, hosted by the Federalist Society

March 27, 2015 – Student Symposium: Mysteries of the Oil and Gas Lease CLE (see story on page 3)

April 13, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Fracking: Disaster or Deliverance, presented by Prof. John Kunich, hosted by the Federalist Society

STUDENTS RECEIVE $28,700 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Blair Loving, JD Candidate ’16, Robert McFadden, JD Candidate ’16, and Stephen Stocks, JD Candidate ’16, received scholarships from the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. McFadden also received a scholarship from the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINERAL LAW FOUNDATION AND THE ENERGY AND MINERAL LAW FOUNDATION SUPPORT WASHBURN LAW STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

A major benefit of having a vibrant program focusing on oil and gas law and natural resources law is that students are allowed to demonstrate their dedication and interest to these areas of study. The two leading educational foundations that focus on educating lawyers in oil, gas, coal, minerals, energy, environmental, federal public land, and natural resources law are the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation (formerly the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation). Washburn is a governing law school member in each organization and an active participant.

Each Foundation has a scholarship program. Washburn students have competed successfully for the scholarship dollars provided by these organizations.

Applications for the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation scholarships, including the Joe Rudd Scholarship Program and the David P. Phillips Scholarship, are due Feb. 28, 2016. For more information about these scholarships, go to: https://www.rmmlf.org/geninfo/scholarflyer.pdf

Applications for the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation scholarships are due in April 2017 with the exact date to be announced. For more information about these scholarships, go to: http://www.emlf.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=scholarship

SOURGENS JOINS CENTER

Washburn Law’s Oil and Gas Law Center is most fortunate to be joined by Professor Freddy Sourgens who brings an important international dimension to the Center. Sourgens also brings considerable expertise in contract law and dispute resolution, including energy arbitration.

Sourgens completed his high school education in Italy, completed his undergraduate study in Norway at the University of Oslo, and earned a masters degree from the Department of Politics at the University of York (UK) before studying law at Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans.

Before joining academia on a full-time basis, Sourgens practiced law in Houston with Fulbright & Jaworski (now Norton Rose Fulbright) and in Washington, D.C., with Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP.

While in practice, Sourgens counseled clients regarding international minerals transactions and disputes. At Fulbright, he worked as a member of the team representing Russia’s Yukos Oil Company in international disputes arising out of the imposition of several billion dollars in back tax liability on Yukos by the Russian government and later auctioning off by the Russian government of Yukos’ assets, including the then-largest international commercial arbitration.

(continued on page 12)
On Oct. 31, 2014, Washburn Law’s Oil and Gas Law Center and International and Comparative Law Center, the University of Houston Law Center, and Georgetown’s International Law Institute sponsored the “Oil and Gas Investment Arbitrations: Protecting Oil and Gas Projects Against Political Risk” symposium. It was held at the University of Houston Law Center and sponsored by Three Crowns LLP, one of the world’s leading boutique firms representing clients in international oil and gas disputes.

The conference featured Washburn Law graduate David Exstrum, ’14, Lario Oil & Gas Co., discussing the specter of international fracking bans with Professor David Pierce; Tim McCrum, Crowell & Moring, Washington, D.C.; French law professor Dr. Sebastian Manciaux, University of Burgundy; and global arbitration expert Teddy Baldwin, Baker & McKenzie, Washington, D.C.

The conference opened with a timely panel on investing in Mexico’s current oil opening featuring former senior-house counsel for Pemex and Weatherford International and leading Houston-based counsel. It addressed the cutting-edge issue of why investment treaty protection (continued on page 13)
FACULTY
(continued from page 11)

“Frack That! Can Investment Treaties Provide Effective Protections Against Fracking Bans?” Panel Member, Oil and Gas Investment Arbitrations: Protecting Oil and Gas Projects against Political Risk, Houston, Oct. 31, 2014.

“Common Interests Created in Oil and Gas” and “Split Estates: The Surface Use Issues,” Oil & Gas Law Short Course, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, three hours of presentations, Houston, Oct. 22, 2014.


Frédéric G. Sourgens
Associate Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Oil and Gas Law Center

BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES


Frack that! Can Investment Treaties Provide Effective Protections Against Fracking Bans?, 2014 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, June 27, 2014.

SOURGENS
(continued from page 10)

concerning the aborted merger between Yukos Oil Company and Sibneft. After moving to Washington, D.C., he represented Mongolia in multiple hard rock mining disputes, earning him an official proclamation of gratiude from the Mongolian Minister of Justice in May 2011.

Sourgens has published more than 40 books, edited volumes, articles, book chapters, and essays on globalization and geopolitical conflicts and organizes multiple annual international conferences on investment treaty protections of foreign investments.

Professor Pierce commented on Sourgens joining the Center stating, “I have had the opportunity to work closely with Freddy since he joined the Washburn faculty. He is a wonderful and important addition to the Center and brings an unmatched level of expertise and energy to the program. He is dedicated to Washburn Law’s student-focused mission and has already proven himself to be an invaluable resource for our students and alumni in and out of the classroom.”
Oil and Gas Law Certificate

A student seeking the Oil and Gas Law Certificate must complete 6 hours of required coursework in oil and gas law plus 10 hours of optional curriculum courses.

To earn the certificate, students must participate in 100 hours of extracurricular programming related to oil and gas law.

Students must complete a practical professional experience where they have the opportunity to experience oil and gas law in action. This requirement may be met through an appropriate externship, internship, or other work-related relationship.

It may be fulfilled in conjunction with an approved extracurricular activity. The goal is to bring students together with oil and gas practitioners to actively participate in addressing legal issues as they unfold.

To earn the Certificate, students must complete the upper-level writing requirement (or equivalent writing project) on a pre-approved oil and gas law topic. They may satisfy the Certificate writing requirement through a Directed Research or an alternative writing opportunity approved in advance by the Center Director.

Certificate in Natural Resources

A student seeking the Certificate in Natural Resources must complete 3 hours of required coursework in environmental law plus 12 hours of optional curriculum courses.

The upper-level writing requirement may be satisfied by the Natural Resources Law Seminar, Directed Research, or an alternative writing opportunity approved in advance by the student’s certificate advisor.

EXTERNSHIP BUSINESS PARTNERS

- Most State Agencies, Entities, and Boards
  - Banking Entities and Corporations
  - Chevrons U.S.A.
  - Children and Family Guidance Center
  - Disability Rights Center
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Immigration and Customs Enforcement
  - Internal Revenue Service
  - Kansas Association of Counties
  - Kansas Association of School Boards
  - Kansas Attorney General’s Office
  - Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
  - Kansas Corporation Commission
  - Oil and Gas Conservation Division
  - Kansas Court of Tax Appeals

- Kansas Department for Children and Families
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Department of Commerce
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Kansas Department of Revenue
- Kansas Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Kansas Insurance Department
- Kansas League of Municipalities
- Kansas Legal Services
- Kansas Soybean Association
- Kansas State Bankers Association
- Local Corporations
- Midwest Innocence Project

- Non-profit Organizations
  - Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner
  - Payless ShoeSource
  - Prairie Band Potawatomi Court System
  - Regional Federal Agencies
  - Shawnee County Sheriff’s Office
  - State and Federal Courts
  - Statewide and Nationwide Courts and Prosecutors/Defenders Offices
  - Statewide Board of Indigents’ Defense Services
  - Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority
  - YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment

And many other placement opportunities vary annually.
At Washburn Law, we are dedicated to promoting the study of oil and gas law and assisting our students in becoming successful lawyers. Even for students who will never practice oil and gas law, taking advantage of these Center opportunities will make them better lawyers, with a better understanding of contract law, property law, and the interaction of business and regulation. The things we do at the Center enhance the law school experience for all students and provide opportunities to see the law in action and learn from leading practitioners.

The Center programs require the active involvement of lawyers with expertise in oil and gas law and related disciplines. Currently, the Center uses over 100 practitioners to assist in teaching our students. If you are not currently participating, and you believe your expertise would be relevant to an existing program or a program you think we should be pursuing, contact Professor David Pierce. (Please see contact information in the box below.)

As this report demonstrates, providing many of the extracurricular activities to our students requires considerable funding. The proximity of Topeka to field trip opportunities, conferences, and the practicing oil and gas bar, means students have to travel. Although we always seek the cheapest travel alternatives, it is still expensive. The Center does not charge students to participate in extracurricular activities. Most of the time conference registration fees are waived or substantially reduced by the provider.

Center travel assistance covers the means to get the student to the event and a place to stay. The student is responsible for food (except for food that is part of the event registration) and other travel expenses. This approach makes it possible for all students to participate while maximizing funds available for the two major travel costs: transport and lodging.

Private donations provide most of the funding to support the Center’s extracurricular study programs. Therefore, private donations determine how much we can do. If you would like to support the Center’s activities, you can do so by sending your contribution to Professor David Pierce. (Please see contact information in the box below.) Make checks payable to: Washburn University School of Law, Oil and Gas Law Center.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about the Washburn Oil and Gas Law Center and its programs.

Thank you.

David E. Pierce, ’77
Director, Oil and Gas Law Center,
and Norman R. Pozez Chair in Business and Transactional Law