

# Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal

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Volume 1 | Number 5

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January 2016

## 2015 Eugene Kuntz Award Ceremony: Introductory Remarks

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### Recommended Citation

R. C. Musser & Owen L. Anderson, *2015 Eugene Kuntz Award Ceremony: Introductory Remarks*, 1 OIL & GAS, NAT. RESOURCES & ENERGY J. v (2016),  
<http://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/onej/vol1/iss5/2>

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PROFESSOR OWEN L. ANDERSON

*Recipient, 2015 Eugene Kuntz Award for Leadership  
in Natural Resources Law and Policy*

## 2015 EUGENE KUNTZ AWARD CEREMONY: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*R. Clark Musser*

This year's honoree was born and raised on a farm in North Dakota. Both of his grandfathers served in the North Dakota House of Representatives, and his mother and father were not only farmers, but country school teachers as well. Mother was of Irish descent; Dad was of Norwegian descent. Both had the gene of a consummate storyteller. Mother and Dad, being servants of the soil, knew and appreciated the bounty of nature. They knew only too well that one misstep in a North Dakota winter could spell death to cattle and ruination of crops, meaning economic disaster for the family. In this environment young Owen Lee Anderson awoke with the sun, fed the cattle, worked the soil, and tended to a multitude of chores on the small grain and cattle ranch. He attended a nearby one-room country school house and later a small-town junior high and high school.

Mom and Dad Anderson instilled in Owen, their only child, a love of learning and an insatiable curiosity; his favorite books being the family's encyclopedia, which he read cover to cover several times. As Owen grew in stature, so did his field of interests. His love of the land, with its unlimited potential, blossomed to a degree few of us in this room can begin to appreciate.

Young Owen developed a work ethic and desire for achievement, manifest in myriad ways: blue ribbons for his animals at the county fair, the beef and all-around showmanship trophies, livestock judging team awards, the state's outstanding North Dakota 4-H Speech speaker, and salutatorian of his high school graduating class, to name just a few of his early honors and awards that presaged what lay ahead for this prodigy.

A favorite pastime of young Owen was to watch Perry Mason on the family's black and white TV. Particularly appealing to this pre-teen was that right and wrong were clearly distinguished, and the fact a lawyer played an important role in making certain that right prevailed. It was in those formative years that Owen vowed to be good and to do good, two principles Owen has adhered to throughout his fruitful life.

Although Professor Richard Hemingway held the Kuntz professorship, Professor Owen Anderson is the first and only person to hold the prestigious Kuntz Chair in Oil, Gas & Natural Resources at the OU College of Law, a position he's held with great dignity for the past 23 years.

Three years ago, in recognition of Professor Anderson's significant academic achievements, he received the highest honor OU bestows on a faculty member. He was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor.

Owen and his beloved wife, Kathie, have now determined retirement is the next big step in their lives.

Just how they define the rather amorphous word "retirement" remains to be seen, but we know retirement for Owen will not be synonymous with a life of leisure, and further, they will be making a journey to Austin, Texas, where Owen will serve as a Professor at the University of Texas School of Law, where he has been teaching part time for the past seven years.

As an acknowledgment of Owen's contributions to our state, OU's law school, the energy industry, our legal profession, and of course, academic energy law, it is altogether appropriate that Owen be this year's recipient of the Kuntz Award. More about Owen will follow.

First, however, let's spend just a few minutes refreshing our memories with respect to the Kuntz Award.

What is the purpose of the Kuntz Award? First, and most obvious, the Kuntz Award honors a member of our bar who has made significant contributions to energy law. Second, the Kuntz Award is a salute to the OU College of Law and its historic role in the development of academic energy law. Third, it is, of course, a tribute to the esteemed Eugene Kuntz, the finest scholar of oil and gas law.

Thanks in significant part to the OU College of Law, the law of oil and gas throughout the US, not just in Oklahoma, has evolved in an orderly and equitable manner. Today's oil and gas law serves society well, thanks in significant part to OU, in what is often a delicate balancing act: balancing the rights of the mineral owners, surface owners, producers, and the environment.

Our law school's involvement began in the 1920s with Victor Kulp, who attained national stature in oil and gas law. The Kulp legacy was held high by Dr. Maurice Merrill, until a young man by the name of Eugene Kuntz joined OU's law faculty in 1952, and proceeded to elevate OU's position in energy law to the summit of academia.

Professor Kuntz's multi-volume treatise on oil and gas law is, in the minds of many scholars and practitioners, without equal. Time and time again we have seen the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and the high courts of other states as well, cite Professor Kuntz. During his lifetime, he was cited in more than 250 judicial opinions, including at least three times by the United States Supreme Court.

Eugene Kuntz became, quite literally, a living legend.

Professor Kuntz continues to draw significant praise from academia, the industry, the legal profession, and of course, the judiciary.

Eugene Kuntz profoundly and positively influenced oil and gas law throughout his four decades at OU. His extensive writings and prescient insights will likely do so for decades to come.

In 1993, while Professor Kuntz was still alive, the OU College of Law established this annual conference and the Kuntz Award in his honor. And, yes, Professor Kuntz was able to participate in the conference's inaugural year. He was thrilled and humbled; there were tears glimmering in his eyes. His health precluded his participation in subsequent years.

And there's the personal side of Eugene Kuntz: If you had the good fortune of knowing him personally, you know that his intellect and scholarship were equaled by his gentlemanly nature. Everyone who knew Eugene Kuntz loved and admired him.

My goodness, how he loved his family! The title of which he was most proud was "Pappy."

*Owen Anderson*

Let's return to our honoree, Professor Owen Anderson, and go back to the year 1991. Eugene Kuntz had retired from teaching, and his successor in the oil and gas field at the College of Law, Richard Hemingway, has announced his retirement. The College of Law appointed a committee to select a new oil and gas law professor. Of course Professor Kuntz was on the search committee. When the name Owen Anderson, Professor of Oil and Gas Law at Texas Tech University Law School, was presented to the committee as a candidate, Professor Kuntz proclaimed, and I quote:

"Owen Anderson is, at his young age, already one of the best there is at what he does. His roots are in North Dakota, and he is currently teaching oil and gas law at Texas Tech, but he belongs in Oklahoma. Mark my word, ladies and gentlemen of this committee, Owen Anderson will in due time become a pre-eminent scholar in oil and gas law."

History would prove Eugene Kuntz correct.

Professor Anderson has held numerous positions in academia, including:

Professor of Law at his alma mater, the University of North Dakota School Of Law; Chair of Resources Law at the University of Calgary, and the Jack F. Maddox Professor at Texas Tech;

Distinguished Visiting Professorships at Southern Methodist in Dallas; the University of Texas in Austin; the University of Houston; the University of Wyoming; Queens University in London; the University of Dundee; the University of Sydney; the

University of Melbourne; and the University of Calgary. He has also been a guest teacher at the University of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro State University; Agostinho Neto University in Angola; Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok; Wonkwang University in Korea, Peking University in Beijing; Qatar University, and the University of Oslo. He has spoken at conferences throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in Jordan, Namibia, Tanzania, France, Italy, Portugal, Russia, the Netherlands, Peru, and Mexico.

He has served as an instructor and consultant for the Commercial Law Development Program of the United States Department of Commerce.

Closer to home, in addition to holding the Kuntz Chair and Cross Professorship at OU, Owen is the Academic Director of College of Law's LL.M. Program in Energy, Natural Resources & Indigenous Peoples, and he has served as an instructor in the Executive and online MBA Energy Programs at OU's Price School of Business.

Owen earned both his undergraduate and law degrees in his home state, at the University of North Dakota. While in law school, he was a member of the Law Review, and, of course, he graduated with Distinction.

After law school Owen served in various capacities for the State of North Dakota, including: Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel for the North Dakota Industrial Commission's Oil & Gas Conservation Division; the North Dakota Board of University and School Lands, and the North Dakota Geological Survey. He also served as Chief of the Natural Resources Section of the North Dakota Office of the Attorney General.

Owen is the co-author of four books: *Hemingway on Oil and Gas Law and Taxation* (4th ed.); *Cases and Materials on Oil and Gas Law* (all six editions); *International Petroleum Transactions* (all three editions); and a *Student's Guide to Estates in Land and Future Interests* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). He leads his team of co-authors in preparing the annual supplements to *Kuntz, Law of Oil and Gas* and is the author and update editor of the prior appropriation materials for the treatise *Waters and Water Rights*.

Professor Anderson has been a member of the Board of Editors of the *Oil and Gas Reporter* since 1990. He serves on the Executive Committee of the *Journal of World Energy Law and Business*, the official journal of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators, and serves as the form and style editor for the AIPN's suite of model petroleum contracts. He is a Life Commissioner for the Uniform Laws Commission and a member of the American Law Institute. Separate and apart from his text books, treatises and editorships, Professor Anderson has published over 100 articles. He was instrumental in starting the new online peer-reviewed *Oil*

*and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal (ONE-J)* at the College of Law.

As you see, Owen's scholarly contributions to energy law are simply breathtaking.

Just two years ago, Owen was honored by his alma mater, The University of North Dakota, with the Sioux Award—the highest honor given by the university's Alumni Association. Professor Anderson has received numerous other prestigious recognitions and awards. To name just a few:

In 2011, the Clyde O. Martz Award for Excellence in Teaching from The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation;

The 2001 Distinguished Service Award from the Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section of the State Bar of Texas;

The Southwestern Legal Foundation's highest individual award, the John Rogers Award, in 1999; and

The Academic Award from the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators in 2006.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the professional honor that is perhaps the one most endearing and descriptive of this titan among academicians: The students at OU Law named Professor Anderson as the Outstanding Law Professor in 1994.

One of Professor Anderson's students, whose private practice is devoted almost exclusively to oil and gas law, tells us:

"I took every course Professor Anderson taught. He was the best teacher I ever had in all my years of schooling, from kindergarten through law school. And he was also the most caring professor I've ever had. Such great and wonderful memories I have of Professor Anderson. I will never forget him."

Allow me, please, to share with you a few quotes from men and women who know our honoree well.

From Owen's colleagues at OU Law:

"When I arrived at OU Law as a tenured professor, I was well aware of Professor Anderson's towering reputation as a scholar, known internationally. What I didn't know, however, is that his scholarly accomplishments are equaled by his fun-loving nature. He is an accomplished jokester and joke teller. His timing is second to none. Perhaps even more importantly, he is loving and

big hearted to one and all.”

“Owen always has a sparkle in his eye and a lilt in his voice--- perhaps more of a burr or a brogue. He is always concerned about his friends and colleagues, and he’s always a pleasure with whom to work.”

Another colleague reminds us of Owen’s Celtic heritage.

“Owen loves all things Celtic: Irish whiskey and Scotch whisky; dancing, pubs, kilts, music, including bagpipes, and St. Patrick’s Day. One of Owen’s nicknames is ‘Irish Owen.’ My wife and I and others were with Owen and Kathie in an Irish Pub in San Diego. After several rounds of Guinness, Owen kept his cohorts spellbound as he proceeded to sing from their table every Irish song the Irish house band was playing. He reminded me of Eugene Kuntz who used to lead the Board of Editors of *The Oil and Gas Reporter* in song after dinner and drinks at their annual board meetings.

Other colleagues said:

“Everyone in academia knows of Owen Anderson’s reputation for scholarship. What they don’t realize is that his sense of kindness and compassion equals his scholarship.”

“Owen has demonstrated the ability to work effectively with business and professional leaders in Oklahoma, the nation and throughout the world, far beyond the academic realm.”

“One of the things I love best about Owen is the fact that he is a preeminent scholar, yet he’s a regular guy. Each and every summer he returns to the family farm in North Dakota to help with haying and tending to the cattle.”

One of Owen’s colleagues with whom he regularly collaborates on scholarly publications tells us:

“Owen Anderson ranks among the top—or more accurately—at the top of academics in oil and gas law. His articles are comprehensive and insightful and frequently cited by courts in many jurisdictions. His articles and co-authored books are widely used by academics and practitioners. In addition to being a scholar without peer, he is a wonderful friend and colleague. Those of us who are privileged to work with him, can never thank him enough for his significant contributions.”



One of our state's most prominent oil and gas lawyers has worked with Owen in numerous settings and in varied capacities. This lawyer says:

“During Owen’s 24-year tenure at OU Law School—and because of his stature, both nationally and internationally, in energy law—he has kept our Law School on the short list of top oil and gas law programs throughout the world, not just the United States. If any of his law students or alumni desires a credible introduction to the other leaders in the world of energy and resources law, Owen has the unique standing in the world community to provide such an introduction.”

Let’s share one more quote, and this one has extra special meaning to us: From Karen Maloy, the daughter of Eugene and Rose Kuntz:

“Owen was the perfect person to carry the Kuntz baton. The love and passion that Owen and Kathie Anderson gave to my mom and dad were unmatched. I will be forever grateful to Owen and Kathie for how they cared for my parents.”

And what is most precious in Owen’s life? His beloved wife, Kathie, and their two children, Thomas and Katie. Just watch Owen’s eyes light up as he talks about his daughter, Katie, who works at OU and lives close by for frequent and treasured moments of togetherness. Son Thomas earned his bachelor’s degree in music from OU, where he studied classical guitar and played in the Pride marching band. He earned a Masters degree from the University of Georgia in Classical Guitar, studying under the late Professor John Sutherland, a legendary guitar teacher. To Owen and Kathie’s great delight, Thomas now lives on the Anderson family farm in North Dakota, where he raises angus cattle, teaches classical guitar at the University of North Dakota, teaches private guitar lessons, plays in two dance bands, and works part time for an online book company buying and selling used books. In Thomas’s moments of spare time, he is brewer.

Kathie has both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in English and Communication from the University of North Dakota and a Ph.D. in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Kathie Anderson is a gifted teacher, writer, author, and speaker on North Dakota History and the history of her paternal ancestors who were settlers in the colony of New Netherlands, which we now know as New York.

And Owen will tell you that Kathie is his rock, his most scrutinizing editor, his best friend, and the love of his life. Owen, there’s an Irish blessing that one of your OU Law colleagues would like to share with this audience in honor of your retirement:

May the winds of fortune sail with you,

May you sail a gentle sea.

And may it always be the other guy

Who says, "This drink's on me."

In conclusion, it is fitting that we go back to Eugene Kuntz's prognostication of some 24 years ago, when our conference's namesake said:

"Owen Anderson will in due time become the preeminent scholar in oil and gas law."

Eugene Kuntz, history proved you prescient!

Joe Harroz, Dean of the OU College of Law, will present the Kuntz Award to Professor Anderson.

## REMARKS UPON RECEIVING THE EUGENE KUNTZ AWARD

*Owen L. Anderson\**

I am honored to accept the Kuntz Award and to join the prestigious list of prior recipients. I have been honored to serve as the Eugene Kuntz Chair and as the Georgy Lynn Cross Professor at the College of Law. I am humbled to receive the Kuntz Award.

Clark, regarding that Irish blessing you quoted from one of my colleagues, the version of that I tell ends, “And may you be half an hour in Heaven before the devil knows you’re dead!”

When I was a child on the family farm and ranch in North Dakota, my parents enrolled me in first grade when I was age five. Willow No. 4 was a one-room country school house, one of hundreds that operated in North Dakota at that time. At most, only a handful remain open today.

My favorite place was the “library”—a small space near the back of the room. I studied atlases and any other books that had maps. I imagined myself traveling to exotic places in the world, but I never imagined that these dreams would come true. When the country school closed at the end of my sixth-grade year, I attended a small-town junior high and high school in Binford, North Dakota. The entire high school never had more than 80 students. I graduated in a class of 18. Clark mentioned the outstanding alumnus award that I received from the University of North Dakota. Three graduates from Binford High School have received this same award. Fortunately, our teachers always encouraged us to follow our dreams. By the way, if you wonder where Binford is located, it is about half way between Jessie and Mose!

When I graduated law school, my initial plans were to go into politics. I secured a political job, largely working with election law. Within six months, I realized that I would never make a good politician. In searching for a new job, I fortuitously ended up working with oil, gas, coal, water, and land resources—both management and regulation. I immediately was fascinated by this work. In 1979, at the peak of the second oil boom in North Dakota, I was given the opportunity to teach oil and gas law. I have done so ever since.

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\* When Professor Anderson accepted this award, he was the Eugene Kuntz Chair in Oil, Gas & Natural Resources and the George Lynn Cross Research Professor at The University of Oklahoma College of Law. Effective January 2016, he became a professor at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy, Law & Business at The University of Texas School of Law, receiving emeritus status at the University of Oklahoma.

My primary goal as a professor has been to help my students realize their dreams. Members of the Oklahoma and Texas bars, along with a large number of energy companies, have supported my efforts by employing many of my students. I have been lucky indeed—starting with my upbringing, marrying my wife and editor, Kathie, having two wonderful children, and having the good fortune to spend nearly 24 years at OU.

When I came to OU in 1992, times were tough. I bought a home that had been foreclosed by a local bank, and the bank that had been closed by the FDIC. Oil and gas activity was very slow. Relatively few students were enrolled in the basic oil and gas class and fewer yet enrolled in the advanced class on oil and gas contracts and tax. I did manage to add one new oil and gas course to the curriculum, international petroleum transactions.

Clark Musser and I had several meetings my first year, and we decided to launch an energy and natural resources conference to honor Professor Kuntz and to create the Kuntz Award. The first conference was held in 1993. Professor Kuntz and Rose were in attendance. The conference has been held annually since 1995, and we established a planning committee to assist in selecting topics and speakers in the late 1990s. The initial conferences were small—attended by 50 to 75 people. Attendance has steadily grown to reach the 550 attendees present today, making it the largest conference focusing on oil and gas law in the country.

In 1999, when oil prices were below \$10 a barrel, University of Texas Professor Ernest Smith and I co-authored an article addressing what states could do to encourage more oil and gas activity, other than the typical approach of providing tax relief. When we presented the paper at the annual oil and gas institute of the Southwestern Legal Foundation in Dallas, we had a serious conversation about what subjects we would teach to close out of teaching careers. We feared that students would have little interest in domestic oil and gas law.

Oil and gas prices improved in the early 2000s, and the College of Law had just completed a major renovation that included a new library and courtroom addition. I thought this was the right time to approach Dean Andy Coats about adding to our energy curriculum, which then consisted of basic oil and gas law, oil and gas contracts and tax, international petroleum transactions, and energy law. This gradual process of adding to the college's energy curriculum continued throughout the decade and has accelerated under the leadership of Dean Joe Harroz.

A first and obvious need was a class in mineral title examination. While the Oklahoma City area has many excellent mineral title lawyers, I wanted to find one who could entertain as well as teach what otherwise might be

regarded as a rather dull subject. I recruited Dave Hampton, who was well known for his rather twisted sense of humor.

Next, I proposed a course in oil and gas practice—a class that would focus on conservation law, local regulation of oil and gas activities, surface-use conflicts, and commonly recurring transactional and litigation issues. I recruited Eric King, in part for his love of Monty Python film clips, which he used when giving CLE presentations, and for his British accent.

Professor Taiawagi Helton began regularly teaching Indian natural resources law, including a segment on oil and gas development on tribal and allotted lands.

Deborah Hubbs, one of my many star students, had worked for Anadarko after law school and soon became general counsel for GeoSouthern Energy Corporation. In 2013, she and Lyndon Taylor, general counsel of Devon and also an OU law grad, negotiated the biggest oil and gas deal of the year, when Devon purchased GeoSouthern's assets in the Eagle Ford shale play in South Texas. A few years ago, I asked her what she had not learned in law school that she wished she would have. She said midstream oil and gas law. I immediately recruited Brent Hagy, who had worked in house as a general counsel and senior counsel for midstream companies. This new midstream oil and gas class quickly became very popular.

We also added wind law, currently taught by Chris Tytanic.

In 2013, Professor Monika Ehrman was hired to teach energy and oil and gas law classes. She designed a new class in oil and gas environmental law.

Last year, Professor Brian McCall designed a new class in complex transactional and finance law using energy transaction examples.

Perhaps our most ambitious initiative has been to provide an opportunity for our students to study under in-house lawyers at oil and gas companies. After much discussion, we decided to call this class "How to Drill a Well," which implicitly indicates that students might also learn how not to drill a well! The idea was to take a small group of students, working as a team, through a combination of real and simulated planning and transactional steps, both legal and commercial, that are necessary for successful oil and gas exploration and development. These may include title curative work, leasing, lease assignments, negotiating joint operating, farmout, and services agreements, permitting, regulatory work, and litigation. The class also includes segments about basic geology and petroleum engineering. In-house lawyers offering sections of this class to small groups of four to six students have included Justin Porter and Rachel Evans at Devon Energy; Dennis Roberts at Continental Resources, Reagan Bradford at Chesapeake Energy, Steve Cargill at SandRidge Energy (now at Devon), Keith Needham at Needham Companies, and Jonathan Morris at SandRidge Energy.

Our energy classes have grown sufficiently that students now have the opportunity to earn a specialty certificate in energy law while earning their J.D. degree. In addition, we offer LL.M. degrees in energy law and indigenous peoples law, as well as Master's degrees in these disciplines for non-lawyers. The LL.M. program attracts students from throughout the world. In addition to an online Master's degree in indigenous peoples law, the College will soon launch an online degree in energy law, targeting landmen who wish to improve their skills in negotiating and drafting contracts. Professor David Dye administers these programs.

This past year, the Mineral Law Newsletter, sponsored by the Oklahoma Bar Association's Energy and Natural Resources Section became *ONE J [Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal]*, a peer-reviewed journal addressing energy and natural resources topics and providing periodic recent-case updates. I encourage all of you to sign up for a free subscription.

Our student group, ONE-S [Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Students Association, formerly the Energy and Resources Law Students Association], is the second largest student organization at the College of Law—second only to the Student Bar Association, to which all students belong. ONE-S arranges several “lunch and learn” sessions featuring guest speakers, social events, and charitable drives throughout the school year.

One thing that Clark did not mention in his presentation is something in which I take great pride. In the early 2000s, Dean Andy Coats asked me to revamp what had become a troubled research, writing, and advocacy program for 1Ls. I hired new writing instructors as well as a competitions director, substantially revised the program, and raised its profile at the College of Law. Professors Gail Mullins, Daniel Nicholson, and Connie Smothermon were among those that I hired and are still teaching in the program. OU's interscholastic competitions program is now ranked as the seventh most successful program in the country.

I trust that I leave the College of Law an improved oil, gas, and energy-focused school. I challenge you here today to help maintain the program. This program is not self-sustaining. It requires your constant vigilance and support. Through my new status as a professor emeritus, I plan to remain involved with the College.

Many people have asked me why I am leaving. I can offer three reasons: First, I just think that it's time. Second, I think that I have done about all that I can do to further enhance the College's energy program. And finally, I have been given an opportunity to have “one more rodeo” before I really retire. In the words of that famous philosopher, Yogi Berra, “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” Notwithstanding my move to the University of Texas School of Law, I want you all to know that I will

always be proud of my tenure at OU, and I plan to and hope to be back to OU frequently in the future. I have the greatest respect and utmost confidence in my OU colleagues and especially in Professor Monika Ehrman. She is a remarkable person and an excellent professor.

In closing, please continue to hire OU students. I could never have helped my students realize their dreams without the confidence that you have in OU graduates.

Finally, to return to my theme of being a very lucky person and to the words of Yogi Berra: "If I had to do it over, I'd do it again." Thank you.

RECIPIENTS OF THE EUGENE KUNTZ AWARD  
FOR LEADERSHIP IN NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAW AND POLICY

1993: WILLIAM G. PAUL  
Attorney, Crowe & Dunlevy and Sr. Vice-President & General  
Counsel, Phillips Petroleum Company

1994:  
*The seminar was not held in 1994*

1995: TOM J. MCDANIEL  
Corporate Secretary, Kerr-McGee Corp.

1996: R. CLARK MUSSER  
Attorney, Director & President, Musser & Bunch, OKC

1997  
*The seminar was not held in 1997*

1998: R. G. "JACK" HORNER  
Senior Vice Pres, General Counsel, & Corporate Secretary,  
Kerr McGee Corp.

1999: THE HONORABLE JOSEPH MORRIS  
Attorney, Gable & Gotwals

2000: PHILIP D. HART  
Attorney, McAfee & Taft

2001: BARTH P. WALKER  
Attorney, Walker & Walker

2002: CHARLES E. DANIEL  
Phillips Petroleum Company

2003: JAMES GEORGE  
Shareholder & Director, Crowe & Dunlevy

2004: JAMES C.T. HARDWICK,  
Shareholder & Director, Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden  
& Nelson



2005: DUKE R. LIGON  
General Counsel & Senior Vice President, Devon Energy Corporation

2006: H. B. "HANK" WATSON  
Attorney

2007: MARK D. CHRISTIANSEN  
Attorney, Shareholder & Director, Crowe & Dunlevy

2008: HENRY J. HOOD  
Senior Vice-President Land and Legal and General Counsel, Chesapeake Energy Corporation

2009: THE HONORABLE MARIAN P. OPALA  
Justice, Supreme Court of Oklahoma

2010: TERENCE DAINTITH  
Professor of Law, University of Western Australia School of Law and Professorial Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London

2011: LYNDON C. TAYLOR  
General Counsel, Devon Energy Corporation

2012: DAVID L. BOREN  
President, University of Oklahoma

2013: MART TISDAL  
Attorney, Tisdal & O'Hara, PLLC

2014: MICHAEL L. DECKER  
Director of the Office of Administrative Proceedings, Oklahoma Corporation Commission

2015: OWEN L. ANDERSON  
Eugene Kuntz Chair in Oil, Gas and Natural Resources and George Lynn Cross Research Professor, The University of Oklahoma