

Charles Sartain

Partner

An experienced trial lawyer with a unique background in the oil and gas industry, Charles Sartain primarily focuses on resolving complex energy disputes in Texas and Louisiana through litigation, arbitration and negotiation. His clients include oil and gas producers and investors, midstream transportation operators, and mineral and royalty owners involved all types of contractual, payment and operational disputes.

In addition to his energy litigation practice, Charles handles commercial disputes for healthcare partnerships and other businesses covering a broad range of issues, including practice dissolution, breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, non-compete agreements, trade secret theft, injunctions, employment discrimination, and collections. He also represents candidates and officeholders in Election Code controversies. Charles is also on the short list for parties seeking an arbitrator with deep experience in resolving commercial disputes involving energy, healthcare, non-compete agreements and trade secrets.

Before starting his private practice, Charles worked as in-house transactional counsel for Sun Oil Company, where he learned the nuts and bolts of contract and title law and gained a first-hand understanding of clients' goals and concerns within the energy industry. This experience gave Charles a rare insider's knowledge of the oil and gas business, and over time he found that his problem-solving and negotiation skills are a perfect match for litigation, arbitration and prevention of commercial disputes.

Dedicated to helping clients stay current on the best ways to protect their businesses, Charles is the author and editor of [Energy & The Law](#), a blog focused on exploring critical developments in the energy industry and how they impact clients from a legal and business perspective.

Experience



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Industries
Energy
Healthcare

Practices
Commercial Litigation
Healthcare
Election Law
Energy

Education
J.D., Louisiana State University (1976)
B.S., Louisiana State University (1973)

Bar Admissions
Texas
Louisiana

- Representation of oil and gas producers in disputes involving royalty payments, lease maintenance, oil field operations, natural gas contracts, gas plant accounting, pooling and unitization issues, operating agreements, and land and lease titles.
- Representation of mineral and royalty owners in lease negotiations and disputes such as lease termination and royalty payment obligations.
- Representation of citizens, candidates, and political parties in disputes involving election procedures, city charter requirements, and election code violations.
- Prosecution and defense of commercial disputes such as breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, corporate governance, fraud, and debt collection in state and federal courts and before arbitration panels.
- Arbitration and litigation of healthcare contract suits involving dissolution of medical practices and disputes between providers and payers involving claims processing, reimbursements, utilization review, coverage and regulatory issues.
- Arbitration and litigation of employment related disputes such as theft of trade secrets and breach of non-competition agreements.

Press Releases

- “Gray Reed Attorney Receives JD Supra’s 2018 Reader’s Choice Award for Energy & The Law Blog” (March 19, 2018)
- “Four Gray Reed Attorneys Speak at Dallas Bar Association’s Annual Energy CLE Program” (August 11, 2017)
- “Gray Reed Receives JD Supra’s 2017 Reader’s Choice Award for Energy & The Law Blog” (March 22, 2017)
- “Gray Reed’s Charles Sartain Named Top Author by JD

Supra” (March 15, 2016)

- “New Blog Focuses on Texas Energy Law” (April 11, 2012)
- “Charlie Sartain Appointed to Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association’s Sunset Task Force” (October 19, 2009)

Thought Leadership

- “Texas Court Divides On Offset Well Case”, *The American Oil & Gas Reporter* (August 2018)
- “Must an Offset Well Clause be Reasonably Calculated to Prevent Drainage? Not in the Eagle Ford, According to the Texas Supreme Court”, Gray Reed Legal Alert (June 28, 2018)
- “Texas Nuisance Law Clarified”, *Dallas Bar Association’s Headnotes* (July 24, 2017)
- “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?”, *TIPRO Target Newsletter* (February 2, 2017)
- “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?”, *Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen (DAPL) February Newsletter* (February 2, 2017)
- “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?”, *Houston Association of Professional Landmen (HAPL) February Newsletter* (February 1, 2017)
- “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?”, *Landman Magazine* (January 3, 2017)
- “Who Pays for the Well After the Lease Terminates? Wagner &

Brown v. Sheppard - The Rest of the Story ” (December 11, 2009)

- “Oil and Gas Operator Liability Addressed in Recent Texas Supreme Court Rulings” (April 27, 2009)

Speeches and Presentations

- “Fact and Fiction in the Fracking Debate”, DAPL Monthly Luncheon (November 6, 2018)
- “Facts and Fantasy in the Fracking Debate”, Dallas Bar Association’s Energy Law: Review of Oil & Gas Law XXXIII (August 3, 2018)
- “The Statute of Frauds in Oil and Gas Transactions: Current Issues”, TexasBarCLE: Oil, Gas & Minerals Title Examination Course (June 14, 2018)
- “The Statute of Frauds in Oil and Gas Transactions: Current Issues”, Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen (May 3, 2018)
- “Lightning in a Wellbore: The Supreme Court Settles an Unsettled Question in Lightning Oil Co. v. Anadarko E&P Onshore, LLC ”, Texas Bar CLE Oil & Gas Disputes (January 25, 2018)
- “Spot Light on Lightning Oil v. Anadarko”, Dallas Bar Association’s Energy Law: Review of Oil & Gas Law XXXII (August 11, 2017)
- “Texas Nuisance Law After Crosstex v. Gardiner ”, Dallas Bar Association - Energy Section (April 12, 2017)
- “Facts and Fiction in the Fracking Debate”, ALTAPL Educational Seminar (February 4, 2017)
- “Texas Nuisance Law After Crosstex v. Gardiner ”, State Bar of Texas Oil Gas and Energy Resources Section, Houston, Texas (January 27, 2017)
- “What’s New With Implied and Unwritten Easements?”, AAPL

Southwestern Land Institute (April 27, 2015)

- “Keeping Your Trade Secrets Secret”, Dallas Association of Professional Landmen (February 3, 2014)
- “Your Fault, My Fault, Their Fault ... Does It Even Matter? Indemnification And Exculpatory Agreements In The Oil Patch”, AAPL Southwestern Land Institute (April 30, 2013)
- “A Few Differences Between Texas and Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Law”, Dallas Association of Professional Landmen (February 7, 2011)
- “A Primer on Confidentiality and Non-Circumvention Agreements”, AAPL Southwest Land Institute (2004)
- “The Discovery Rule in Texas Oil and Gas Litigation”, State Bar of Texas Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section Report (December 1998)
- “That’s My Story and I’m Sticking To It: The Creation and Preservation of Evidence as Part of Your Daily Routine”, Dallas Energy Symposium (January 1996)
- “Legal Issues in Gas Balancing”, Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants - 1994 Oil and Gas Conference (November 1994)
- “Punitive Damages in Oil and Gas Cases After Moriel and TO v. Alliance Resources”, Dallas Bar Association, Review of Oil and Gas IX (August 1994)

Honors

- Selected as a Best Lawyer in Dallas by *D Magazine* (2017)
- Selected by his peers for inclusion in Woodward/White, Inc.’s *The Best Lawyers in America* in the fields of Commercial Litigation and Energy Law (2008 – 2019)
- Named a “Super Lawyer” by Texas Super Lawyers (a Thomson

Reuters company) as published in *Texas Monthly* and *Law & Politics* magazine (2005 – 2018)

- Named a Top Author in JD Supra's Reader's Choice Awards (2017 – 2018)
- AV Preeminent® rated (the highest possible Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating designation)
- Omicron Delta Kappa

Organizational Involvement

Professional Activities, Memberships & Affiliations

- State Bar of Texas
 - Litigation Section
 - Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Section
 - Healthcare Section
- Louisiana State Bar Association
- Dallas Bar Association
 - Board of Directors, 2000 – 2002
 - Committee Chair: Media Relations, Judiciary and Courthouse Committees and Energy Law Section
- American Arbitration Association commercial arbitration panel
- Texas Independent Producers and Royalties Owners Association (TIPRO)

Community Involvement, Memberships & Affiliations

- Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church senior warden,

vestry, rector search committee

- Dallas County Republican Party, General Counsel (1994 – 2008)
- Saint Michael Foundation, President
- Leadership Dallas