

Paul Yale

Partner

Paul Yale is Board Certified in Oil, Gas & Mineral Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He has decades of experience in both the domestic and international oil and gas industry, including 27 years working in various capacities with ExxonMobil Corporation and its predecessors. Before retiring from ExxonMobil in 2007, Paul served as Manager of Land for the company's U.S. Production Organization responsible for overseeing all land activities in the U.S. lower 48. Upon retiring from ExxonMobil, Paul immediately re-entered private law practice focusing exclusively on oil and gas title, transactional and dispute resolution matters. He is a licensed attorney in eight states and has worked in virtually every major U.S. oil and gas basin, both onshore and offshore.

During the course of Paul's career he has negotiated and documented countless numbers of upstream oil and gas transactions, including purchase and sale agreements, oil and gas leases, joint operating agreements, exploration agreements, unit agreements, gas sales contracts, master services agreements, drilling contracts, and many more. He regularly prepares oil and gas drilling, division order and acquisition title opinions in Texas, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and in other states in which he is licensed.

A certified arbitrator and mediator, Paul is experienced in guiding parties to amicable dispute resolutions in cases involving upstream oil and gas contracts and complex title issues. He is frequently called on to provide expert witness testimony in litigation involving many types of complex oil and gas issues.

Paul is a regular author and speaker on a variety of oil and gas legal topics including title opinions, operating agreements, and hydraulic fracturing. He is a co-author of LexisNexis's Hydraulic Fracturing Law and Practice (2017 edition).

Experience



Paul Yale

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Industries
Energy

Practices
Energy

Education
J.D., Southern Methodist University
Dedman School of Law (1977)
B.A., *cum laude*, Vanderbilt University
(1974)

Bar Admissions
New Mexico (2017)
North Carolina (2015)
Utah (2014)
Ohio (2014)
Oklahoma (2013)
North Dakota (2009)
Colorado (1983)
Texas (1977)

- Represents independent oil and gas producers in acquisition, divestiture, and joint venture negotiations.
- Supports independent oil and gas producers in drilling programs in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and other states through rendering title opinions and giving associated legal advice on operational and regulatory matters.
- Conducts title due diligence for oil and gas lenders including both banks and private equity investors.
- Represents an ivy league university in oil and gas negotiations involving Texas and Oklahoma mineral interests.
- Represents both oil and gas producers and private landowners in oil and gas lease negotiations.
- Served as an expert witness in approximately a dozen oil and gas cases since entering private law practice in 2007.
- Served as a company representative for a major oil company in dozens of take or pay and other oil and gas disputes 1980-2007.
- Mediates and arbitrates cases involving joint operating agreements, purchase and sale agreements, and other types of contracts.
- Served on American Association of Professional Landmen drafting committees including the committee that drafted the 1989 Joint Operating Agreement and a committee currently drafting a model form exploration agreement.
- Served as an international agreements coordinator for a major oil company. Worked on the committee that drafted the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators model form operating agreement.

Press Releases

- “Six Gray Reed Energy Attorneys Contribute to 2019 LexisNexis Publication”
- “Six Gray Reed Energy Attorneys Contribute to 2019 LexisNexis Publication” (November 20, 2019)
- “Twenty-Nine Gray Reed Attorneys Named 2018 Top Lawyers in Houston” (December 3, 2018)
- “Four Gray Reed Attorneys Contribute to 2017 LexisNexis Publication” (September 27, 2017)
- “Paul Yale Earns Certification in Commercial Arbitration” (February 23, 2016)
- “Gray Reed & McGraw Named Top Energy Firm” (May 1, 2014)

Thought Leadership

- “The AAPL Form JOA and Non-Paying Participants - “Mr. Green Leisure Suit” Revisited”, *Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal* (January 2020)
- “Fracking Facts, Fantasies and Regulations in Texas and Beyond”, *Landman Magazine* (March/April 2019)
- “”Show Me the Money!”: Who is a “Payor” Under the Texas Natural Resources Code?”, Gray Reed Legal Alert (May 25, 2018)
- “Hydraulic Fracturing Law and Practice”, *LexisNexis* (2017 Edition)
- “A Model Form Title Opinion: Time for a Revisit?”, *Oil and Gas, Natural Resources and Energy Journal: Vol.1: No.5, Article 4* (2015)

Speeches and Presentations

- “Law of Hydraulic Fracturing in Texas and Beyond”, HAPL Technical

Conference (April 23, 2019)

- “Allocation Wells and PSA Permitting”, North Houston Association of Professional Landmen Luncheon (December 11, 2018)
- “A Brief Look at the Law of Hydraulic Fracturing in Texas and Beyond”, 31st Annual South Texas College of Law Houston Energy Law Institute (August 30, 2018)
- “Formatting Title Opinions”, Dallas Bar Association’s Energy Law: Review of Oil & Gas Law XXXIII (August 2, 2018)
- “The Legal and Regulatory Landscape of Hydraulic Fracturing in Texas and Beyond”, Houston Bar Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section (March 22, 2018)
- “To Waive or Not to Waive (Title Opinion Requirements) ”, Houston Association of Division Order Analysts (February 21, 2018)
- “The AAPL Operating Agreement and Deadbeat Non-Operators”, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (December 5, 2017)
- “To Waive or Not to Waive? Analyzing Oil & Gas Title Opinion Requirements”, State Bar of Texas, 27th Annual Advanced Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Course. (Selected as “Best Published Article in an AAPL Publication” for 2009-2010.) (2009)

Honors

- Named a “Super Lawyer” by Texas Super Lawyers (a Thomson Reuters company) as published in *Texas Monthly* (2013 - 2019)
- AV Preeminent® rated 5.0 in Natural Resources Law, by Martindale-Hubbell (the highest possible peer review rating Martindale-Hubbell offers in a specialty area), and AV Preeminent® 4.9 overall (out of a possible 5.0)

Organizational Involvement

Professional Activities, Memberships & Affiliations

- Past Chair, Houston Bar Association, Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section
- Member, Advisory Council, Harry L. Reed Oil & Gas Institute, South Texas College of Law Houston
- Fellow, Texas and Houston Bar Foundations
- Fellow, Texas Bar College
- Member, Texas Bar Pro Bono College
- American Association of Professional Landmen (CPL)
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation
- American Bar Association—Section on Environment, Energy and Resources

Community Involvement, Memberships & Affiliations

- The Beacon (Episcopal Homeless Ministry), Board of Directors
- Beacon Law, Volunteer Attorney
- Houston Volunteer Lawyers
- Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Kingwood, Texas