

Ryan Sears

Partner

Leader of the Energy Transactions Practice Group, Ryan Sears serves as outside general counsel for both domestic and international energy clients, focused primarily on structuring upstream and midstream transactions and advising on the various issues that typically arise during the production of oil and gas.

Ryan has guided clients through challenging multi-million-dollar deals and routine operational transactions in Texas and many states across the country, primarily involving the acquisition, divestiture and financing of producing assets, private securities offerings, oil and gas leases, joint operating agreements plus much more. He also has unique experience in handling a broad range of international transactions, whether he's helping a foreign energy client acquire oil and gas assets in the U.S. or guiding a domestic client through the process of expanding its operations abroad.

The majority of Ryan's clients don't have in-house legal counsel to help them resolve the day-to-day operational and legal issues that impact every energy company. They rely on Ryan as an integral team member who is always on call to advise on every aspect of their businesses, including entity structuring and corporate governance, vendor contracts, landowner title disputes, environmental issues and conflicts among partners.

Representative Experience

- Represented a publicly-traded Chinese company on \$500 million – plus acquisition of privately owned oil and gas company based in Fort Worth, Texas with operations in the Woodbine/Eaglebine play in East Texas. The representation included advice on the \$150 million issuance of debt and guidance on CFIUS approval.



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1601 Elm Street
Suite 4600
Dallas, TX 75201
rsears@grayreed.com

D: 469.320.6194

T: 214.954.4135

F: 214.953.1332

Industries

Energy

Practices

Energy Transactions
Mergers & Acquisitions
Private Equity
Banking & Finance

Education

J.D., University of Oklahoma
College of Law (2004)
B.A., Economics and Political
Science, University of Oklahoma
(2001)

Bar Admissions

Texas
Oklahoma

- Represented publicly-traded E&P company on its \$100 million acquisition of producing oil and gas wells in the Eaglebine play in East Texas. Our representation includes day-to-day support of the company in all facets of its operations following closing.
- Represented a publicly-traded E&P company in \$90 million sale of producing Haynesville Shale assets, where a portion of the purchase price was in the form of drilling credits which could be applied by Seller against drilling costs attributable to Seller's retained minority share.
- Represented privately-held E&P company on acquisitions and associated senior debt financing of producing oil and wells located in Andrews and Crane County, Texas aggregating \$50 million.
- Represented private equity backed company on \$31 million acquisition of producing oil and gas and pipeline assets in Wood County, Texas.
- Represented private equity backed company in two divestitures of Austin Chalk formation leasehold in South Texas, with an aggregate value of \$40,000,000.
- Represented privately held E&P Company on multi-million-dollar joint venture with Indian investors for development of project in South Louisiana.
- Represented partnership on securities offering documents, capital raise, and acquisition of natural gas producing assets in South Texas.
- Represented other energy clients on acquisitions and divestitures of oil and gas assets in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Louisiana and Utah with a combined value in excess of \$500 million.
- Advising private equity backed midstream company on gathering and service agreements with its upstream

customers.

- Advising upstream clients on numerous commercial agreements affecting daily operations.

Press Releases

- “Six Gray Reed Energy Attorneys Contribute to 2019 LexisNexis Publication,”
- “Gray Reed Establishes Task Force to Help Get Clients “Back to Business”,” (April 21, 2020)
- “Six Gray Reed Energy Attorneys Contribute to 2019 LexisNexis Publication,” (November 20, 2019)
- “Gray Reed Announces Q1 2017 New Hires,” (March 31, 2017)

Thought Leadership

- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2020,” Various publications (2021)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil and Gas Cases of 2019,” *Landman Magazine* (March/April 2020)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2019,” Various publications (2020)
- “Top Ten Texas Oil and Gas Cases of 2018,” *Texas Association of Defense Counsel Magazine* (Summer 2019)
- “Top Texas Oil and Gas Cases of 2018,” *Landman Magazine* (January/February 2019)
- “Three’s a Crowd: Texas Court Confirms that Material Correction Instruments Must Be Executed by Heirs, Successors, or Assigns in Yates Energy Corporation v. Broadway National Bank,” Gray Reed Legal Alert (January

22, 2019)

- “Top 10 Texas Oil and Gas Cases of 2018,” Various Publications (2018/2019)
- “Top 10 Texas O&G Cases in the First 11 Months of 2017,” *Landman Magazine* (January/February 2018)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil and Gas Cases of 2017,” Various Publications (2017/2018)
- “Top 10 Texas O&G Cases of 2017 (So Far),” (September 25, 2017)

Speeches and Presentations

- “Energy Update: M&A Market, Bankruptcy, Finance,” Gray Reed Webinar (September 9, 2020)
- “Energy Bankruptcy & Finance Update,” ADAM Energy Forum (August 6, 2020)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2019,” Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen (January 22, 2020)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2019,” East Texas Association of Petroleum Landmen (January 16, 2020)
- “Lessons Learned from Recent O&G Deals,” Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen / Young Professionals in Energy – Dallas / Women's Energy Network – North Texas / Dallas Geological Society (July 31, 2019)
- “Allocation Wells and PSA Wells,” Women's Energy Network – North Texas (March 19, 2019)
- “Top 10 Cases of 2018,” Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen (February 28, 2019)
- “Top 10 Cases of 2018,” East Texas Association of

Petroleum Landmen (January 17, 2019)

- “JOAs and Allocation Wells,” Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen / Young Professionals in Energy (October 16, 2018)
- “Top 10 Cases Texas Energy Cases from the Past Twelve Months,” Dallas Bar Association's Energy Law: Review of Oil & Gas Law XXXIII (August 2, 2018)
- “Top 10 Texas O&G Cases of 2017 (So Far),” HAPL Monthly Luncheon (December 5, 2017)
- “Top 10 Texas O&G Cases of 2017 (So Far),” AAPL Southwest Land Institute (September 25, 2017)

Organizational Involvement

- Houston Bar Association
 - Energy Section
- Dallas Bar Association
 - Former Chairman, Energy Law Section
- Oklahoma Bar Association
 - Energy and Natural Resources Section