

Agenda

Ethical Issues in the Practice of Geoscience *B. Johnson*

Understanding and complying with
American Geoscience Institute ethics guidelines
Day-to-day ethical practices
Protecting public health, safety and welfare

Ownership of and Access to Surface Lands and Minerals *C. Wehmeyer,
K. Wehmeyer*

Legal rights of mineral and surface owners
Legal and practical exercise of access rights
Where do one party's rights end and the other's begin?
Rights of adjacent property owners
When rights collide: shared and split estates
Resolving disputes

Developments in Federal and Texas Environmental Law *K. Fancher*

Reviewing recent changes to and enforcement of:
• Pollution prevention
• Water quality enforcement
• Stormwater permitting
• Watersheds, wetlands, lakes and streams
Reviewing recent and anticipated developments at the US EPA
and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Understanding of Texas Groundwater Law *G. Ellis*

Texas rule of capture
Ownership of groundwater
Groundwater regulation by conservation districts
Ownership and duty of the groundwater estate owner to the surface estate owner
Legal standards related to water well construction
Prohibition against comingling of waters of different quality

Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells *B. Durrett*

Requirements for abandoned wells
Procedure for orphaned wells
Abandoned and unplugged wells

Current Issues in Site Remediation/Soil Contaminants *C. Westfall*

Texas site remediation programs
Emerging contaminants/PFAs

Current Issues in the Practice of Geoscience
Live, Interactive Webinar - Wednesday, October 14, 2020

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Learning Objectives

You'll be able to:

Comply with the American Geoscience Institute's ethics guidelines.

Determine the legal rights of mineral and surface land owners.

Identify recent developments at the Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality.

Explain the duty of the groundwater estate owner to the surface
estate owner.

State the legal requirements for abandoned oil and gas wells.

Identify emerging soil and water contaminants.



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Acquire ethical practices to apply
to your day-to-day work

Understand where one party's
mineral rights end and the other's
surface rights begin

Get up-to-date on current
issues in Texas and federal
environmental law

Explore the law of groundwater
ownership in Texas

Examine the legal requirements
for abandoned oil and gas wells in
Texas

Study current issues in site
contamination.

Continuing Education Credits

This live, inactive webinar offers 7.5 PDHs,
including 1.0 ethics hour, to Texas geoscientists.



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Faculty

Becky Johnson, P.G. *Chair of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists*
Ms. Johnson is a board certified professional geoscientist and geologist, an environmental science professor at Texas Christian University, and consultant/trainer with more than 26 years of experience. She is a founding member of the Society of Texas Environmental Professionals Sustainability Chapter, and a volunteer with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality EnviroMentor Program. She served for the last 10 years as past president/officer of Society of Texas Environmental Professionals. Ms. Johnson received a bachelor’s degree in Geology from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master’s degree in Environmental Science and Hydrogeology from Texas Christian University.

Corey F. Wehmeyer *Santoyo Wehmeyer, P.C.*
Mr. Wehmeyer represents energy industry participants in trials, arbitrations and disputes. Clients include operators, working interest owners, mineral owners, drilling contractors, oil field service companies, pipeline companies, refiners, and mining companies. He has handled matters in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and North Dakota. He also represents clients in general real property and commercial litigation matters. As lead attorney, Mr. Wehmeyer has tried oil and gas jury trials to multi-million dollar verdict and judgment for clients, and has also secured take nothing defense verdicts. He is also an appellate attorney and has successfully represented energy clients in oral argument and briefing before the Supreme Court of Texas, and many intermediate courts of appeal. Mr. Wehmeyer is board certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and is the managing shareholder of Santoyo Wehmeyer P.C.

Katy Wehmeyer *Santoyo Wehmeyer, P.C.*
Ms. Wehmeyer advises oil and gas exploration and production companies in connection with oil and gas lease negotiation and operation, including participation and joint development agreements, pooling and unitization issues, and royalty payment and calculation matters. Ms. Wehmeyer also handles acquisitions and divestitures of oil and gas assets and assists clients with title due diligence ahead of asset acquisition and development. She is board certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Kristen Fancher *Fancher Legal, PLLC, in Frisco*
Ms. Fancher’s work includes assisting clients with various water, environmental, regulatory, administrative, and election law issues. She represents a wide array of government entities, corporations, and landowners on regulatory compliance, water resource and supply planning, endangered species, water utility service, permitting, litigation, transactional, board governance, and enforcement matters. Ms. Fancher served as a judicial intern for The Honorable Robert A. Junell with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. She currently serves as the co-chair of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas Law School Committee, which is charged with placing law school students in internships with the state agencies that focus on environmental law. Ms. Fancher is a frequent speaker at water and administrative law conferences across Texas. She is a sixth generation Texan.

Webinar Information

Log into Webinar 8:00 - 8:30 am CDT	Break 12:15 - 12:45 pm CDT
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Greg Ellis *Founder at GM Ellis Law*
Mr. Ellis has been practicing water law and been involved in water issues for over three decades. As a law student, he helped clerk the House Natural Resources Committee working on a variety of water legislation. After receiving his J.D. degree from the University of Texas School of Law, Mr. Ellis worked as legislative liaison for the Texas Water Commission and later served as general counsel to the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District. The Edwards Aquifer Authority hired Mr. Ellis as their first general manager in 1997, a position he held until October 2004 when he left to start his solo law practice. In addition to representing subsidence districts and groundwater conservation districts, he serves as board secretary of the Texas Water Foundation, a nonprofit corporation that provides water conservation education throughout the State.

Brandon E. Durrett *Member, Dykema Gossett PLLC*
Mr. Durrett is a board certified Oil and Gas attorney in the San Antonio office with the Corporate Finance Practice Group. Practicing in Texas and New Mexico, he counsels petroleum industry clients in mergers and acquisitions, commercial industry agreements, and complex disputes over oil and gas assets. He has broad experience negotiating purchase and sale agreements for both upstream and midstream assets, plus related marketing, financing, confidentiality, and transition agreements. He also works closely with his corporate partners on energy-related mergers, capital investments, and private equity deals. He regularly negotiates complex petroleum industry agreements. Mr. Durrett often teams with his litigation partners in oil and gas disputes involving lease termination claims, subsurface trespass, title disputes, breaches of representations and warranties and indemnification claims. He advises clients in regulatory compliance matters before the Railroad Commission of Texas and New Mexico Oil Conservation Division regarding drilling permits, spacing and density issues, enforcement actions, and forced pooling. Mr. Durrett also has extensive experience examining oil and gas title to fee, state, and federal lands, including complex producing leaseholds and large unitized acreages.

Constance C. Westfall *Member at Clark Hill PLC*
Ms. Westfall concentrates her practice in the environmental area. She represents industrial and institutional clients on a wide range of environmental matters. She has advised clients on environmental issues arising from the acquisition/sale of business enterprises and improved and unimproved real property, including contracts, environmental site assessments and other environmental due diligence. Ms. Westfall has defended clients in administration enforcement actions before federal and state agencies involving the Toxic Substances Control Act, Texas Solid Waste Disposal Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Texas Water Code. She has assisted companies in the development of their permitting strategies (including major petroleum refineries, steel manufacturing facilities, and a commercial hazardous waste facility), and represented companies with permitting issues before the federal and state agencies, including an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals. Ms. Westfall also has extensive experience in counseling industrial facilities on the investigation and remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater. Prior to joining Strasburger, she served as Judicial Clerk for Jerre S. Williams, United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit (1985-1986).

Continuing Education Credit Information
This webinar is open to the public. It offers Texas geoscientists 7.5 continuing education hours, which includes 1.0 ethics hour. Educators and courses are not subject to preapproval in Texas.

Completion certificates will be awarded to participants who complete this event and earn a passing score (80%) on the quiz that follows the presentation (multiple attempts allowed).

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Registration

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