

Oil & Gas Practice Group

LITIGATION | TRANSACTIONS | REGULATORY



MCGINNIS LOCHRIDGE
we're in it together®

Austin | Houston | Dallas | Decatur | mcginnislaw.com

ABOUT MCGINNIS LOCHRIDGE

McGinnis Lochridge is a highly experienced, multi-practice Texas law firm with more than 70 lawyers. Founded in 1927, McGinnis Lochridge has for over 90 years maintained strong ties to its judicial and legislative traditions. The Firm has been fortunate to count among its lawyers distinguished leaders in judicial and governmental positions, including state and federal trial judges, a Texas Supreme Court justice, a Fifth Circuit justice, state and federal legislators, a past president of the Texas Bar, and even a governor of Texas. The Firm has continued to grow and adapt to meet clients' needs in a changing and increasingly complex business environment.

Today, from offices in Austin, Houston, Dallas, and Decatur, the Firm's attorneys maintain a broad civil law practice in all Texas state and federal courts. Our major practice areas include oil and gas, complex commercial and energy litigation, public utility regulation, class actions, environmental, labor and employment, intellectual property, and international law. The Firm's clients range from individuals and small businesses to some of the world's largest corporations.

Our lawyers represent energy clients throughout the country in complex litigation and arbitration. We have proven skills handling sophisticated disputes involving geology, geophysics, and petroleum engineering. Several of our lawyers have

professional backgrounds and credentials in those areas. Because of the Firm's long history in handling energy disputes, the Firm's Oil & Gas Practice Group includes lawyers with a deep understanding of hydrology, seismic interpretation, log analysis, drilling, completions, hydraulic fracturing, reservoir engineering, production, transportation, hydrocarbon processing, and other related technical areas.

Throughout its history, the Firm has led development of oil and gas law serving as trial and appellate counsel in several landmark cases setting important oil and gas law precedents. The Firm successfully represents oil and gas producers, marketers, and transporters in a wide range of matters including disputes pertaining to leasehold rights, joint interest billing, royalties, prudent operations, and constitutional limits on regulations that would unreasonably impair the oil and gas business.

At McGinnis Lochridge, each client and every legal matter receives partner-level attention. This client focus ensures maximum value, efficiency, and results. At the same time, the breadth of our practice areas enables clients to rely on McGinnis Lochridge as a single-source, trusted advisor able to address the most challenging business and legal needs.

Our attorneys are seasoned oil and gas professionals, including:

- *Litigators*
- *Transactional attorneys*
- *Petroleum engineers*

Chambers & Partners USA

Ranked Band 1

Energy: State Regulatory & Litigation (Oil & Gas)
in Texas

We "speak oil and gas" and understand:

- Geology
- Hydrology
- Geophysics
- Log analysis
- Drilling
- Completions
- Hydraulic fracturing
- Reservoir engineering
- Pipeline and gas plant operations
- Rock mechanics
- Mining engineering

Oil and Gas Litigation

We represent clients throughout the petroleum industry within Texas and across the country, including major oil and gas companies, independents, midstream companies, and oilfield service companies involved in disputes, lawsuits and arbitrations.

Building on a firm history spanning nearly a century, McGinnis Lochridge lawyers have dealt with the developing issues in unconventional shale plays throughout Texas and North America. Our recent work in the unconventional shale plays in South Texas and the Permian Basin builds on decades of a strong firm presence in courtrooms throughout South Texas and West Texas. We also work regularly with Texas governmental agencies including the Railroad Commission of Texas and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, as well as local municipalities and water districts.

Our litigation experience includes disputes pertaining to:

- Oil and gas lease covenants
- Lease termination
- Surface use and accommodation
- Salt water disposal
- Trade secrets
- Breach of warranties
- Royalty obligations
- Operating agreements
- Pipeline right-of-way and condemnation
- Mineral title ownership
- Bad faith pooling
- Trespass
- Groundwater rights
- Environmental damages and cleanup

The attorneys in our Oil & Gas Practice Group have the expertise needed to translate difficult technical evidence into plain language.

Oil & Gas Transactions, Acquisitions and Divestitures

Our lawyers represent clients in domestic oil and gas asset acquisitions and divestitures. Whether a deal involves a straightforward purchase and sale transaction, complex farmout, exploration and participation agreement, large package transaction, surface use agreements or complex lease negotiations, McGinnis Lochridge offers comprehensive and strategic representation from inception through drafting, due diligence, closing, and post-closing issues. Our attorneys have represented buyers, sellers, investors, financiers, and advisors in transactions involving both proved and unproved oil and gas assets.

We understand that every deal is unique, and that business goals are the heart of every transaction. We add value throughout a transaction, whether assisting in structuring and negotiating the deal, coordinating due diligence, accessing potential legal risks, or analyzing potential or ongoing litigation related to the deal. We have the experience, industry knowledge, and skills necessary to effectively and efficiently structure, draft, and negotiate these agreements.

Because McGinnis Lochridge offers both an experienced transactional practice alongside a robust litigation and regulatory practice, our transactional clients can rely on our attorneys' up-to-date market experience, as well as our litigation savvy to diagnose and mitigate legal risks associated with a transaction.

We bring these skills to bear in structuring, drafting and negotiating a multitude of agreements for oil and gas clients, whether in the upstream, midstream, or oilfield services sectors of the industry.

Oil & Gas Regulatory

The firm has decades of experience successfully representing a wide variety of oil and gas exploration and production companies, saltwater disposal operators, pipeline operators, and individuals before the Railroad Commission of Texas—the State's oil and gas regulatory body. Our breadth of skill and knowledge covers all aspects of the Commission, including permitting, applications, proposed rule-making, and hearing procedures, necessary to advise clients so they can comply with the law and develop properties to achieve their competitive goals.

Our clients benefit from our unique ability to comprehend operational and regulatory challenges, without the need to educate us on the subtleties of engineering or development issues.

Chambers & Partners USA ranks the firm Band 1—the highest ranking in State Regulatory and Litigation for Oil and Gas in Texas—for our effective representation of clients in the biggest cases to come before the Commission. Our attorneys routinely present to in-house counsel, landmen, and other industry professionals about the intricacies of Commission rules and regulations, and we provide practical guidance on lease negotiation, interpretation, development, and operations.

We have strong relationships with the Commission and work daily with its managers, directors, and inspectors to solve and avoid regulatory problems. We know the Railroad Commission and have the skills and experience our clients can rely on for regulatory success.



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