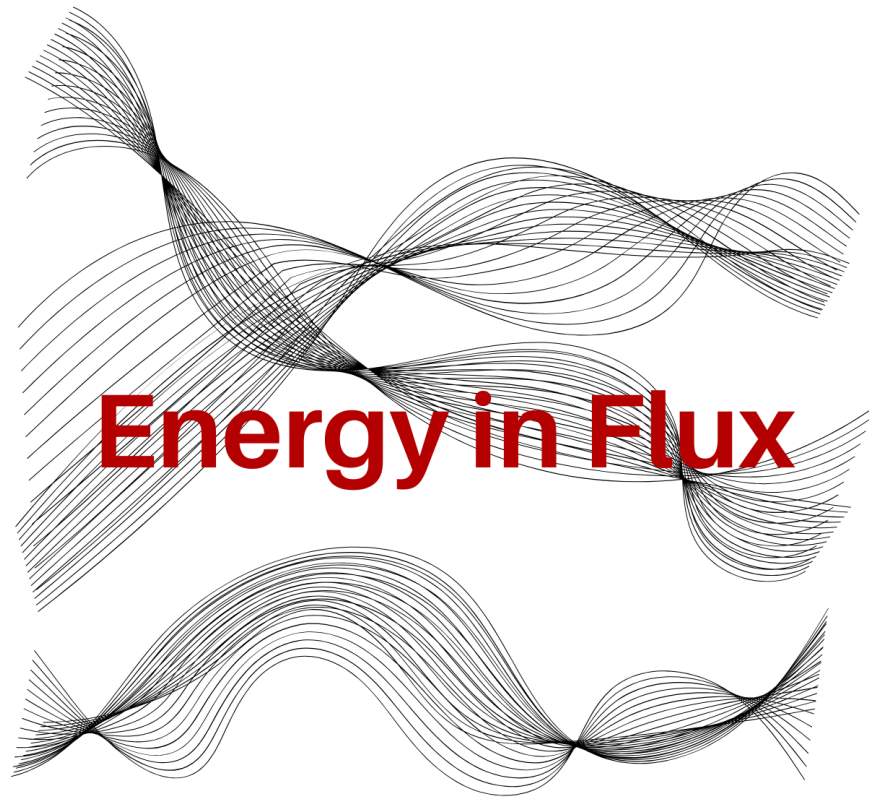




38th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM





38TH ANNUAL TEXAS ENERGY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

May 7th 2026

Weaver's Dallas Offices, The Union, 2300 North Field Street, 8th Floor

AGENDA

CREDIT HOURS APPROVED:

7 AAPL Recertification; 6 Continuing Legal Education, & 6 Continuing Professional Education for CPAs

NARO Credits Pending

- 8:00 AM **REGISTRATION BEGINS**
Continental Breakfast is served
- 8:15 AM **WELCOME TO THE 38th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM - ENERGY IN FLUX**
Presenter: **Buffie Campbell, JD, CPL** – *President*, Texas Energy Council
- 8:30 AM **The Geothermal Energy Revolution – The Abundant Source of Perpetual Energy Beneath Our Feet**
Speaker: **Benjamin Sebree, JD** – *Attorney & Counselor at Law*, The Sebree Law Firm PLLC
- 9:30 AM **Climate Litigation**
Speaker: **Lauren Varnado, JD** – *Partner*, Brown Rudnick LLP
- 10:30 AM Networking Break
- 10:45 AM **How Texas Appraisal Districts Value Assets and Effective Strategies for Managing Property Tax Expenses**
Speaker: **Raymond Gray, JD** – *Founding Partner*, Gray Winston
Special Remarks: **Jennifer Rabb, TTARA President**
- 11:45 AM Networking Break
- 12:00 PM **Creating Our Energy Future**
Keynote Luncheon Speaker: **Terry Palisch** – *Chief Technology Officer*, CARBO Ceramics, & *2024 President*, SPE
- 1:15 PM **The Modern JOA: Past Evolution & Present Practice**
Speaker: **Vincent Cuccerre, CPL** – *Land Manager*, North Star Resources
- 2:15 PM Networking Break
- 2:30 PM **Eat that Frog: Planning and Paying for Plugging**
Speaker: **Dwayne Purvis, PE** – *Founder & Principal Advisor*, Purvis Energy Advisors
- 3:30 PM **The AI Boom Is Rewriting Data Center Operations And Repricing The Asset Class**
Speaker: **Ashley Pleasant** – *Director, Real Estate Advisory and Sustainability Services*, Weaver
- 4:30 PM **ADJOURN FOR NETWORKING RECEPTION**
Presented by: **Allyson Johnstone Howard, CPL**



ADVANCE ENERGY EDUCATION HERE:



2026 SYMPOSIUM

Speaker: Benjamin Sebree, JD – *Attorney & Counselor at Law*, The Sebree Law Firm PLLC

Topic: **The Geothermal Energy Revolution – The Abundant Source of Perpetual Energy Beneath Our Feet**

The geothermal energy industry is at the same point the oil and gas industry was 26 years ago when it first learned how to unlock oil and gas from shale rock. Mr. Sebree will explain the advancements being achieved in extracting energy from hot dry rock and why we are on the precipice of an explosion of abundant, clean, perpetual energy in the form of reliable, dispatchable electricity not only in Texas, the United States, but worldwide.

Bio: Ben Sebree is an attorney and well-known governmental relations practitioner in Austin, Texas. Among other clients, Ben currently serves as General Counsel for the Texas Geothermal Energy Alliance, the trade association representing the geothermal energy industry in Texas, and other private geothermal energy companies. Additionally, having served as Vice-President and General Counsel for the Texas Oil and Gas Association, having been appointed by Governor Perry to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, having been elected to the Governing Council of the Oil, Gas and Energy Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, and possessing a long and effective career in Austin, Sebree's governmental and legal expertise are well recognized.

Ben occupies a highly respected tenure in the Austin legal and lobby communities with a reputation for integrity, intelligence, tenacity, and fairness which have accorded him with an unusual longevity of positive relationships with elected officials.

Ben possesses an institutional knowledge of Texas legislative, regulatory, and public policy matters, especially regarding energy, geothermal energy, oil & gas, natural resources, water, tax, and environmental matters. Finally, Ben is a well-published legal author on the subjects of geothermal energy, produced water, oil and gas, natural resources, and Texas Legislation.

Speaker: Lauren Varnado, JD – *Partner*, Brown Rudnick LLP

Topic: **Climate Litigation in a Changing Legal Landscape**

This discussion will explore the intersection of climate litigation, regulation, and the energy sector within Texas's unique legal and economic landscape. It will cover key trends, including claims by states, municipalities, and private parties, as well as emerging defenses, jurisdictional strategies, ESG considerations, and disclosure-related lawsuits. Attendees will



gain insight into how these developments impact business operations, investment decisions, and long-term energy strategy.

Bio: Lauren Varnado, a partner in Brown Rudnick's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice Group, is an experienced first-chair trial lawyer. She tries high-stakes, “bet the company” oil, gas, energy and tech disputes, securing victories for plaintiffs and defendants before trial and appellate courts, juries and arbitration panels. Lauren has been recognized by The American Lawyer and Lawdragon Top 500 U.S. as a leading energy lawyer, and honored by Vogue as an “Influential Woman of Houston.” She represents clients in breach of contract, fraud, oil and gas royalties, alleged environmental contamination, theft of trade secrets, midstream transportation, processing and refinement, joint operations and FERC enforcement litigation, as well as market manipulation related to trading in energy and commodity markets.

Lauren routinely advises private and public E&P companies on rights and obligations under upstream, midstream, power and LNG contracts; litigation avoidance and risk mitigation; climate litigation; and investments and obligations in carbon emissions reduction, carbon capture, and renewable energy (solar and wind).

Speaker: **Raymond Gray** – *Founding Partner*, Gray Winston

Topic: **How Texas Appraisal Districts Value Assets and Effective Strategies for Managing Property Tax Expenses**

This session offers a clear, practical overview of how Texas appraisal districts value upstream, midstream, downstream, and renewable energy assets—and where those valuations often overstate taxable value. Attendees will learn the key drivers of energy-sector appraisals, common valuation pitfalls, and effective strategies for using operational data, obsolescence, industry-specific evidence, and the new business personal property exemption to reduce assessments. The session highlights essential compliance practices, important exemptions, and proven protest approaches, giving participants actionable tools to better manage property tax as a controllable expense.

Bio: Raymond Gray has been immersed in Texas Property Tax since serving as Law Clerk to the Texas House Committee on Ways and Means during the initial revisions to the Texas Property Tax Code in 1981.

Representing all types of properties as a property tax attorney, Raymond’s caseload includes a wide array of tax protests and appeals. Among his complex industrial cases are renewables (nuclear, wind, solar and BESS), fossil fuel power plants, chemical manufacturing, business personal property and commercial real estate. His commercial real estate appeals include hotels, large and small office, medical office, multi-family, and retail. His retail property appeals run the gamut: from one of the largest drugstore chains in the country, to corporate cases, regional malls, strip centers, big boxes and convenience stores. Among his more



interesting cases have been one of the country's largest confectioners; an inventory case involving a major automotive manufacturer fulfilling a multi-billion-dollar recall, several interstate commerce appeals, two Freeport Exemption cases at the Court of Appeals, a municipal water park, and exemption issues for Texas A&M University Systems.

Prior to representing property owners, Raymond spent 15 years representing appraisal districts and taxing units. Raymond's understanding of the pressures and constraints under which appraisal districts operate, and the interplay between local appraisal efforts and tax revenue, continues to pay dividends for his clients.

Recognized by his peers as one of the top attorneys in Texas property tax, Raymond is AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell®. Raymond is a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, an invitation-only organization consisting of the top 1/3rd of 1% of lawyers in Texas. Raymond's standing among property tax lawyers has led to him being retained as an expert witness by several county assessors, and by several cities and taxing jurisdictions challenging the actions of appraisal districts. Raymond's reputation for integrity and excellence has led property tax attorneys on both sides of the bar, competitors and opposing counsel alike, to refer cases to him.

Keynote Luncheon Speaker:

Terry Palisch – *Chief Technology Officer, CARBO Ceramics, & 2024 President, SPE*

Topic: **Creating Our Energy Future**

2024 Society of Petroleum Engineer's President, Terry Palisch shares his insight on the current state of the energy mix in the world and here at home, as well as highlight the importance of increasing the supply of all energy sources. With the current events in our industry today, now more than ever oil and gas is critical to meeting the global demand for affordable, reliable, secure and sustainable energy.

Bio: Terry Palisch is the Chief Technology Officer at CARBO Ceramics, and the 2024 SPE President. After completing his BS in Petroleum Engineering at the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR), Palisch worked as a senior petroleum engineer with ARCO in Alaska and as a petroleum advisor with ARCO in Algeria. In 2004 he joined CARBO Ceramics, and in his current position leads a team of technologists dedicated to developing and championing new products and services as well as advising clients on completion/fracture optimization.

Terry is an active member of SPE, including past chairman of the SPE Dallas Section and the ATCE Technical Program. He served a term as the Completions Technical Director on the SPE Board, and recently completed his second term on the Board as the 2024 SPE President. Palisch has authored or coauthored over 60 SPE papers and been awarded the



SPE MidCon Region Completions Optimization & Technology Award as well as the Regional Service Award. In 2018 Terry was recognized as a Distinguished Member of SPE, and received the award for Distinguished Service.

In 2019 he was selected as a Distinguished Alumni at Missouri S&T (formerly UMR). Terry and his wife Sandy have been married over 35 years, and have three grown sons – Zack (Air Force Pilot), Austin (Staff Petroleum Engineer – Liberty Energy) and Jacob (Professional Baseball Player – Chicago White Sox organization).

Speaker: Vincent Cuccerre, CPL – *Land Manager*, North Star Resources

Topic: **The Modern JOA: Past Evolution & Present Practice**

This presentation examines the evolution of the Joint Operating Agreement and how successive revisions culminating in the AAPL's 610-2015 Form has modernized the contract to support horizontal drilling and large-scale developments. It highlights commonly negotiated commercial modifications, key legal and operational gaps in prior forms, and the rationale behind recent changes commonly seen in the industry. The discussion will ultimately provide a practical framework for navigating the JOA in negotiations, operational management, and title review in today's environment.

Bio: Vincent is a Land Manager for NorthStar Resources, where he brings over a decade of experience leading land, commercial, and A&D initiatives across the Permian Basin. Prior to joining NorthStar, Vincent held senior land roles at ExxonMobil, where he led multi-rig campaigns, optimized asset portfolios, and successfully executed high-stakes commercial transactions.

Vincent began his career with Concho Resources in their Corporate Development Program, building a strong foundation in upstream transactions and asset strategy. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Energy Commerce from Texas Tech University and a Master of Jurisprudence in Energy Law from the University of Tulsa College of Law. He is also a Certified Professional Landman through the AAPL.

In addition to his professional roles, Vincent is an active industry leader, currently serving as an AAPL Committee Member, a past President of the NHAPL and formerly as Vice President Board of Director of the Bush Tennis Center.

Speaker: Dwayne Purvis, PE – *Founder & Principal Advisor*, Purvis Energy Advisors



Topic: **Eat that Frog: Planning and Paying for Plugging**

For most wells and most companies, the end of well life is within the planning horizon. Already half of the wells in the country stand idle, and about 80% of active wells are stripper wells. Meeting statutory obligations can require funds from the last 10 to 15 years. Mr. Purvis explores the surprising economic realities and what you can do about it.

Bio: Dwayne has been a petroleum engineer, entrepreneur, and executive in the oil industry for 30 years. He and his team at Purvis Energy Advisors assist oil companies, litigants, and NGOs with complex engineering and strategic issues, especially how to succeed in the energy transition. He also teaches industry courses, served as an adjunct professor at Texas Christian University, and frequently contributes to the public discussion of oil industry topics in venues.

Speaker: **Ashly Pleasant** – *Director, Real Estate Advisory and Sustainability Services, Weaver*

Topic: **The AI Boom Is Rewriting Data Center Operations And Repricing The Asset Class**

The AI boom is reshaping how data centers are built, financed, and operated. As AI workloads drive unprecedented power demand and heat generation, these assets are moving beyond traditional real estate into energy-constrained infrastructure that requires a different operating model. Ashly Pleasant will examine how power availability, cooling requirements, and capital deployment are converging to influence operational strategy, and how those shifts are changing risk profiles, return expectations, and valuation across the sector.

Bio: Ashly has more than 15 years of experience in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) integration, asset management and strategic operations. She leverages her exceptional analytical skills and deep understanding of market dynamics to position her clients for long-term success in a competitive and rapidly evolving business environment.

She develops scalable initiatives and strategies designed to meet client stakeholder expectations, customizing ESG platforms to maximize social and environmental impact through a profit-focused lens. Along with coordinating materiality assessments to prioritize, plan and budget ESG-focus areas, Ashly also communicates ESG efforts and progress through various engagement channels, building relationships with investors, customers, employees and community partners.



TEXAS ENERGY COUNCIL

Texas Energy Council (TEC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, non-partisan organization of professional and educational societies dedicated to serving the energy industry in Texas by Advancing Energy Education.

All proceeds benefit student scholarships and educational initiatives.

TEC was originally founded in 1988 as the Dallas Energy Council, changed to the North Texas Energy Council in 1996, and finally became the Texas Energy Council in 2007. The membership includes over 5,000 members from various organizations. The Council is headquartered in Dallas, Texas. TEC provides a forum for all energy-related professional societies and educational institutions to communicate issues and transfer technology among its members and the public. Two elected officers from each organization make up the Board of Directors of the TEC.

Our objective is to advance the common interests of the members of professional societies and educational institutions serving the energy industry in Texas to achieve economies, to protect and educate the public, and to promote communication. The Council maintains a central coordinating body to provide a forum for association and communication for representatives of the Member Organizations of those energy-related professions.

President: **Buffie Campbell**

President Elect: **Alicia Surratt**

Vice President- Operations: **Robert Martinez**

Vice President- Membership: **Glenn Winters**

Vice-President- Professional Development: **Allyson Howard**

Secretary: **Katerina Uribe**

Treasurer: **Wendy Chandler**

Symposium Sponsorship: **Allyson Howard & Krystin Gilbert**

Chair of Public Relations & Social Media: **Judy Moses**

Chair of the Scholarship Committee: **Leah Kasparek**

Education Co-Chairs: **Leila Cornelius and Mark Varhaug**

Advisory Board: **Michael Cooper, Anil Kumar**



TEXAS ENERGY COUNCIL - Member Organizations

ADAM Energy Forum Dallas
American Association of Drilling Engineers- DFW Chapter
American Energy Institute (formerly Natural Gas Foundation)
Brookhaven College Geotechnology Institute
Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies (COPAS) of Dallas
Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen
Dallas Geological Society
Dallas Geophysical Society
Dalworth Association of Division Order Analysts
DFW Association of Lease and Title Analysts
Dutch Treat Wildcatters
East Texas ADAM
Energy Law Section of the Dallas Bar Association
Energy Law Section of the Tarrant County Bar Association
Energy Workforce & Technology Council
Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen
The Nancy & Jake L. Hamon Oil & Gas Resource Center at the Dallas Public Library
Houston Association of Professional Landmen
Institute for the Study of Earth & Man at SMU
International Association of Directional Drilling- Permian Basin Chapter
IPAA Texas- North Central Region
Lone Star Desk & Derrick Club of Dallas
North Texas Gas Processors Association
National Association of Royalty Owners - Texas
Panhandle Producers & Royalty Association
Permian Basin Gas Processors Association - Midstream Chapter
Permian Basin Landmen's Association
Petroleum Engineers Club of Dallas
Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists
Society of Petroleum Engineers – Dallas Section
Society of Petroleum Engineers – Fort Worth Section
Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers – Dallas Chapter
Society of Petroleum Well Log Analysts- Dallas Chapter
South Texas Geological Society
Texas Alliance of Energy Producers
Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association
Women's Energy Network - Houston
Women's Energy Network - North Texas
Young Professionals in Energy - Dallas



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NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER





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YEAGER LAND & TITLE





***** 2026 TEC SUPPORTERS *****

Mark N. Varhaug P.G. C.P.G



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ADVANCE ENERGY EDUCATION***

