

Agenda

Ownership of and Access to Surface Lands and Minerals

B. Barchus

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
Resolving disputes

Complying with Texas Rules and Regulations On the Practice of Geoscience

B. Derie

Defining the practice of geoscience
Powers and duties of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
Requirements for licensing and renewal
Grounds for disciplinary action
Procedure for investigation and hearing

Ethical Issues for Professional Geoscientists

B. Derie

The American Institute of Geologists' Code of Ethics
Protecting the environment: meeting or exceeding legal requirements

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 waters of different quality

Reuse and Disposal Issues with Oil/Gas Well Produced Water and Other Wastewater

J. Higdon

Relationship between federal and state regulation
Reuse options in Texas
Disposal options in Texas
Regulatory trends and developments

Abandoned Mines and Mine Clean-Up Responsibility

G. Pels

Identification and risk profile of abandoned mines
Understanding the current regulatory status of mining wastes
Liability allocation and litigation trends
Risk mitigation

Current Issues in the Practice of Geoscience Houston, TX - Friday, December 6, 2019

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Learning Objectives

You'll be able to:

Understand the power and duties of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

Deepen your understanding of the legal rights of mineral and surface land owners.

Enhance your ability to understand reuse and disposal options of oil/gas well produced water.

Learn the American Institute of Geologists' Code of Ethics.

Explain the current regulatory status of mining wastes, and understand the risk profile of abandoned mines.

Discuss ownership of groundwater and groundwater regulation by conservation districts.



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Understand how to comply with Texas rules and regulations on geoscience practice

Identify ownership of and access to surface lands and minerals

Examine regulation of abandoned mines and mine waste

Learn about the specifics of Texas groundwater law

Explore reuse and disposal issues for oil/gas well produced water

Discuss ethical issues for professional geoscientists

Continuing Education Credits

This seminar offers 7.5 continuing education hours, including 1.0 ethics hour, to Texas geoscientists.



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Faculty

Brandon Barchus *Co-Founder at Faulk Barchus*

Mr. Barchus is a co-founder and practicing attorney at Faulk Barchus in Houston. The firm specializes in oil & gas, real estate, property taxes, and environmental law. Mr. Barchus has been very successful defending clients, winning over \$8 million on a single trial verdict on behalf of his clients defrauded by an oil and gas operator. He is a member of State Bar of Texas' Litigation Section as well as the Oil, Gas, and Energy Resources Law Section. Mr. Barchus is also a member of the Institute for Energy Law and Young Energy Professionals. He has spoken at numerous conferences regarding the oil/gas and energy industries and has a 9.8 Avvo Rating. Mr. Barchus is the executive producer for Night Court: a non-profit all lawyer musical comedy that benefits law related charities. He received his B.S. degree with honors from the University of Texas – Austin and his J.D. degree, with honors, from Baylor University School of Law.

Bereket Derie *CEO/Owner at Round Rock Geophysics*

Dr. Derie is a licensed professional geoscientist and chief executive officer with Round Rock Geophysics. Round Rock offers comprehensive geophysics consultants and survey services to the mineral exploration, civil engineering, geotechnical engineering, groundwater and environmental communities on a worldwide basis. Prior to the creation of Round Rock Geophysics, Dr. Derie was the Geophysics Department Manager at Renewable Resource Consultants. He is a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Engineering and Environmental Geophysicists Society and Austin Geological Society. Dr. Derie is a member of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, with his term set to expire in February, 2021. He is an extremely well respected and experienced geoscientist with experience around the world. Dr. Derie received a bachelor of science degree in Physics and a masters of science degree in Geophysics from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He earned his doctor of philosophy degree in Geophysics from Loughborough University, United Kingdom.

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.

Jerry Higdon *Partner at Locke Lord*

Mr. Higdon is an experienced environmental lawyer with 28 years of experience representing private and public parties in avoiding, managing, and resolving environmental liabilities and facilitating environmental sustainability solutions through brownfields redevelopment and the development and scaling of renewable energy. Known for his pragmatism and imagination in solving environmental problems, he regularly advises members of the energy industry regarding management of issues affecting the renewables/alternative, upstream, midstream, and downstream energy sectors. Mr. Higdon has been named to Chambers USA's America's Leading Business Lawyers for Environmental Law every year from 2009-2019. He received his B.B.A degree from Texas Tech and received his J.D. degree with honors from The University of Texas School of Law.

Gerry Pels *Partner at Locke Lord*

Mr. Pels, chair of the firm-wide Environmental Section - Energy and Industry, has been one of the leaders of the Texas environmental legal community for over 30 years. His diverse practice focuses on the areas of environmental compliance, counseling, and litigation. Mr. Pels has consistently led teams working on cutting edge matters of environmental law, including resolving the well-known Cooper v. Aviall litigation and arguing Clean Air Act issues before the fifth Circuit in litigation involving the Texas SIP. He has been consistently recognized in Chambers USA since 2004 as well as in *The Best Lawyers in America* for environmental law. He was also an adjunct law professor for seven years teaching both environmental law and an advanced RCRA seminar. Mr. Pels received his A.B. degree from St. Joseph's University and J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University Law School, where he served as executive editor of the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transactional Law*.

Seminar Information

Marriott West Loop - By the Galleria

1750 West Loop South
Houston, TX 77027
(713) 960-0111

Registration
8:15 - 8:45 am
Morning Session
8:45 am - 1:00 pm
Lunch (On your own)
1:00 - 2:00 pm
Afternoon Session
2:00 - 5:45 pm

Tuition

\$289 for individual registration
\$269 for three or more registrants from the same company at the same time.

Included with your registration: Complimentary continental breakfast and printed seminar manual.

How to Register

- Visit us online at www.halfmoonseminars.org
- Mail-in or fax the attached form to 715-835-6066
- Call customer service at 715-835-5900

Cancellations: Cancel at least 48 hours before the start of the seminar, and receive a full tuition refund, minus a \$39 service charge for each registrant. Cancellations within 48 hours will receive a credit toward another seminar or the self-study package. You may also send another person to take your place.

Continuing Education Credit Information

This seminar 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.

Texas geoscientists with continuing education requirements in other states will be able to apply the hours earned at this seminar, in most cases. Refer to specific state rules to determine eligibility.

Attendance will be monitored, and attendance certificates will be available after the seminar for most individuals who complete the entire event. Attendance certificates not available at the seminar will be mailed to participants within fifteen business days.

Can't Attend? Order the Manual and Audio from the Live Seminar as a Self-Study Package!

Audio recordings of this seminar are available for purchase starting at \$269. See registration panel for more information and please refer to specific state licensing rules or certification requirements to determine if this learning method is eligible for continuing education credit.

Additional Learning

Webinar Series

HEC-RAS Webinar Series

- **Hydraulic Principles and Applications**
Tues., October 29, 2019, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM CDT
- **Working with the HEC-RAS User Interface**
Tues., October 29, 2019, 1:30 - 3:00 PM CDT
- **Water Surface Profiling**
Thurs., October 31, 2019, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM CDT
- **Steady Flow Surface Profile Demonstrations**
Thurs., October 31, 2019, 1:30 - 3:30 PM CDT

Slab-on-Grade Concrete and Pavement for Private Facilities

- **Concrete and Pavement Design Principles**
Wed., October 30, 2019, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT
- **Exterior Concrete Pavement Design**
Wed., October 30, 2019, 12:30 - 3:15 PM CDT
- **Interior Concrete Slabs-on-Ground Design**
Thurs., October 31, 2019, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM CDT
- **Concrete and Pavement Maintenance and Sustainability**
Thurs., October 31, 2019, 1:30 - 3:00 PM CDT

For more information visit:
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Registration

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Complete the entire form. Attach duplicates if necessary.		Email address is required for credit card receipt, program changes, and notification of upcoming seminars and products. Your email will not be sold or transferred.
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Tuition

() **I will be attending the live seminar.** Single Registrant - **\$289.00**. Three or more registrants from the same company registering at the same time - **\$269.00** each.

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