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Speaker Bios

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Speaker Bios
The 45th Mineral Law Institute
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MICHAEL E. CONEY has been engaged in the practice of law for Shell Oil Company, principally in the offshore minerals area, for nineteen years, and works in the New Orleans office. Mr. Coney received his law degree from Loyola Law School in 1972, and later earned a Master of Civil Law degree from LSU Law Center in 1977 and a Master of Law degree in Energy and Environment from Tulane Law School in 1995.

JAMES A. GEORGE is a member of the Baton Rouge law firm of George & George, Ltd. He has served as National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Chair of the Admiralty Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of American, and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Inn of Court Foundation where he also served as National Vice-President for one term. Mr. George was the recipient, in a ceremony conducted in The Well of the United States Supreme Court on October 9, 1996, of the A. Sherman Christensen Award, given each year to the member of the American Inn of Court Foundation who, at the local, regional or national level has provided distinguished, exceptional and significant leadership to the American Inn of Court movement. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors for The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*, and is currently serving a second term as Chair of the Professionalism and Quality of Life Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

PATRICK W. GRAY is a partner in the Lafayette office of Liskow & Lewis. Mr. Gray has been practicing in the areas of commercial and oil and gas litigation for 20 years. His energy law and litigation experience includes defense of legacy lawsuits, environmental contamination matters, contract and property disputes, and drilling contract lawsuits. He has handled matters involving Department of Conservation unitization orders, various royalty and lease disputes, oil and gas liens, and mineral royalty disputes. His background also includes oil and gas marketing disputes, oil and gas regulatory litigation and related administrative proceedings. In complex commercial litigation matters, Mr. Gray has represented clients in their corporate and director and officer malpractice and environmental liability actions. He has also written about, and handled, joint operating agreement litigation. He received a B.A. degree from Tulane University in 1975. He received his law degree in 1978 from LSU Law Center where he was a member of *Louisiana Law*

Review, and the Order of the Coif. Mr. Gray has an "AV" peer review rating in the *Martindale-Hubbell* directory, and was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Natural Resources Law and Oil and Gas Law. He is a member of the Lafayette and Louisiana State Bar Associations.

THOMAS A. HARRELL has served as Director of the Mineral Law Institute at LSU Law Center since 1979. After teaching law at LSU Law Center for twenty-three years, "Professor" Harrell retired from the LSU faculty in 1996. He received his law degree in 1951 from LSU, where he was Associate Editor of the *Louisiana Law Review* and a member of the Order of the Coif. After graduation, he became an attorney for the Louisiana Department of Revenue, serving as acting chief counsel for part of that time. He then joined the Shreveport firm of Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts in 1953 and became a partner in 1960. In 1970, he moved to Dallas to become vice president of Cenard Oil and Gas Company and its subsidiaries in Texas, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Oklahoma. Professor Harrell then joined the LSU Law Center faculty in 1973. He is a member of the Legislative Committee for drafting and adopting Article 9 of the UCC and is Co-Reporter for the Secured Transactions Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute. He has served as a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Professor to the Universite' de Clermont I, Clermont Ferrard France, the Catholique Universite' de Louvain, Belgium, and the Universite'd Aix-Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, France.

LARRY C. HEBERT is a partner in the law firm of Ottinger, Hebert & Sikes, L.L.P. in Lafayette, Louisiana where his practice area includes oil and gas law, property law and probate law. Mr. Hebert received his Bachelor's degree in 1968 from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and his law degree from LSU Law Center in 1974 where he became a member of the Order of the Coif, Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa. He is the author of "Royalty Issues Affecting Commercial Leases" presented at the 42nd Mineral Law Institute in 1995. He has been a member of the Advisory Council for the LSU Mineral Law Institute since 1996, and a member of several committees for the Louisiana State Law Institute including the Advisory Committee on Property Law since 1987, the Agency and Representation Committee since 1993, and the Quasi-Contract Committee since 1993. Mr. Hebert is a past President of the Lafayette Association of Petroleum Landmen, and is an Associate Member of the American Association of Professional Landmen.

ARNOLD J. JOHNSON is Counsel for Vastar Resources, Inc. in Houston, Texas. He began his career with Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) in 1980 and held the position of District Landman prior to joining ARCO's Legal Department in 1989. He has been with Vastar's

Legal Department since Vastar was created out of the restructuring of ARCO's lower-48 operations in 1993. His current practice involves environmental law and oil and gas transactions. Mr. Johnson received his law degree from Creighton University in 1980. He has served in various capacities with the Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Section of the Houston Bar Association, including holding the position of Chairman of that section in 1995, and currently serves as a member of the Advisory Council of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute. He is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education programs. Mr. Johnson is licensed to practice law in Texas, Colorado and Nebraska.

GARY H. LOVE practices law with the law firm of Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr. Love received his Bachelor's degree in accounting in 1985 from LSU and his law degree from LSU Law Center in 1988. He was employed as an Attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Division of Corporation Finance from August 1988 to November 1991. He then worked as Senior Attorney and Assistant General Counsel with NorAm Energy Corporation from December 1991 until September 1997 before joining the Blanchard Walker firm.

RAYMOND B. "RAY" ROUSH is a staff attorney with Chesapeake Operating, Inc. in their Oklahoma City, Oklahoma corporate office where his chief responsibilities include serving as E&P counsel to Land and other Chesapeake departments, litigation and advising management in general corporate matters. Mr. Roush received his Bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering in 1970 from Louisiana Tech and his law degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1976. He is currently licensed to practice law in Oklahoma and Louisiana, and is also a registered professional engineer in Oklahoma. He was formerly employed by Graham Resources, Inc. in Covington, Louisiana where he remained as a solo practitioner for two years after Graham was dissolved in December 1994.

THOMAS G. SMART received both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from Louisiana State University. He is a shareholder in the Onebane Law Firm, where he has practiced in its oil and gas section for the last 23 years. His practice focuses on a broad range of oil and gas matters, including the structuring, drafting and negotiation of various agreements, the acquisition and sale of producing properties, title examination, 3-D seismic permitting and licensing, and general advice for producers engaged in onshore and offshore operations. He is a member of various bar associations. He is also a member of AAPL, LAPL, PLANO and various other land associations.

PROFESSOR N. GREGORY SMITH is an Associate Professor of Law at LSU Law Center. He received his B.A. from Yale University and his J.D. from Brigham Young University where he was an article editor

of the *BYU Law Review*. Following law school, he clerked for Judge Monroe McKay of the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. He practiced law in Phoenix, Arizona from 1979 until 1991, and served for several years as a member of the Arizona State Bar Committee on Rules of Professional Conduct. Professor Smith joined the LSU Law Center faculty in 1991 and teaches Commercial Paper, Common Law Property, Land Use Planning and Legal Profession.

PAUL A. STRICKLAND is a shareholder of the law firm of Hargrove, Pesnell & Wyatt in Shreveport, Louisiana where he specializes in oil and gas matters, including title opinions, acquisitions and financing. A native of Shreveport, he received his undergraduate degree from LSU and went on to receive his law degree in 1980 from the LSU Law Center. He is a member of the American Association of Professional Landmen and the Louisiana State Bar Association. He is a frequent lecturer at seminars for professional landmen and division order analysts, and he is a past speaker at the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute.

P. K. "PETER" VELEZ is Manager Regulatory Affairs for Shell Offshore Inc. in New Orleans, a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company. Mr. Velez received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. He joined Shell's Midland, Texas office in 1975. His assignments have included Civil Engineering, Operations Superintendent, Production Superintendent, Manager Production Engineering, and Manager Health, Safety and Environment. He is active in trade association groups including: Chairman of the Louisiana MidContinent Oil and Gas Environmental Conservation Council, API CEC — Water Issue Manager, the USCG National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee, and he assumed the Chairmanship of the RP 75 Development Task Force.

WILLIAM H. WALKER is president of Howard, Weil, Labouisse, Friedrichs Inc., an investment banking firm that is headquartered in New Orleans. Walker graduated from Mississippi State University in 1967. After working in computer sales with IBM, he entered the U.S. Army in 1968 as an officer in the Adjutant General's Corp. He taught at the U.S. Army War College and served in Vietnam, Hawaii, Panama, Japan and Korea. After military service, Walker again entered the computer sales field in 1970. He began his career in the securities business in New York City in 1972. He has since been involved in many aspects of the securities business, including sales, trading, research and investment banking as to both debt and equity related instruments. Walker joined Howard, Weil in 1976 and was named president in 1990.