

## AAPL Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination

Nominee: Jim Dewbre, CPL



It is with great honor to nominate Jim R. Dewbre, CPL for the 2025 AAPL Lifetime Achievement Award. I have personally known Jim, his wife Jill, and their son Jordan for over 35 years. During which, Jim has continued to uphold and display what it means to not only be an industry executive and Landman, but to be an outstanding, person, mentor, and steward for AAPL and our industry as a whole.

Throughout his 42-year career and AAPL membership, Jim has continued to enhance and pioneer the land profession to new standards and heights through his commitment to AAPL and its various committees (i.e. Coal Bed Methane JOA Committee, CPL Certification Committee, Regulatory Committee, 2015 JOA Committee, et al). Jim has held several BOD positions within AAPL highlighted by his Presidency in 2011-2012 as well as Third Vice President (2007-2008) and Regional Director (NHAPL 2004-2007).

In addition to his commitment to AAPL, Jim is also committed to various local organizations such as the North Houston Association of Professional Landmen (NHAPL) and Houston Association of Professional Landmen (HAPL) where he has served as President for both organizations. Jim is also a member of the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association (LIOGA) where he served on the Board of Directors as well as the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO)

His personal career growth, innovation, and leadership qualities, among many others, have led him to a career not commonly duplicated in our industry. His knowledge, hard work, and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Jim has been in a management and/or executive position for over 24 years for Southwestern Energy Company, Chesapeake Energy and currently Stephens Production, where he has led the land organizations during one of the most challenging and technological advancement periods of our time: unconventional development. His knowledge of our profession and ability to adapt to the political and technological challenges have influenced our industry's practices for the future.

On a personal note, Jim has not only mentored me, but he has hired, developed, and mentored countless landmen during his career, teaching each prospect not only the details of our profession, but to honor the Landman title and AAPL membership with professionalism and to follow the Code of Ethics. As a young landman 20 years ago, Jim made a comment to me that I still live by. His quote was: *"it takes countless good decisions to build a successful career and reputation, but one unethical decision to tear it all down"*. It is this type of leadership as to why many of his mentees have gone on to become highly successful in their own careers. It is without a doubt that his knowledge and leadership qualities will be felt in this industry for generations of Landmen to come.

To summarize Jim's dedication to AAPL and our profession, I have included a few highlights below:

- AAPL President 2011-2012
- AAPL Landman of the Year 2005
- Past President of North Houston Association of Landmen 2003-2004
- Established the charter and selected the members of the AAPL Committee who drafted and completed the 2015 Operating Agreement
- Established the NAPE Breakfast Speakers Series that hosted T. Boone Pickens as the inaugural speaker.
- Past Chairman & Current Member of the Energy Management Board of Advisors at The University of Oklahoma
- Current Member of the Price College of Business Board of Advisors at The University of Oklahoma

- Commencement Speaker at The Price College of Business at The University of Oklahoma December 2014
- Recipient of The University of Oklahoma Regents Award 2017 (the only OU Award bestowed being higher to receive is an Honorary Doctorate)
- Current Vice-Chairman of The University of Oklahoma Presidents Associates Council

Should you seek further information on Jim, I have enclosed a copy of his curriculum vitae for reference.

Given all of the above, It is my honor to nominate Jim for this award and believe his accomplishments and unselfish dedication to AAPL and the land industry validate him as the model candidate.

Thanks,

*Joe Edgar*

Joe Edgar, CPL  
AAPL Member #72966  
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# **JIM R. DEWBRE, C.P.L.**

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## **EDUCATION:**

**Doctor of Business Administration, Leadership and Organizational Development, Projected Date of Completion, July 2024, University of the Southwest, Hobbs, New Mexico**

Master of Business Administration, Management, May 1987, Texas A&M University -Corpus Christi (formerly known as Corpus Christi State University), Corpus Christi, Texas

Bachelor of Business Administration, Petroleum Land Management, May 1983, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Management Courses at The Center for Creative Leadership (CCL)

## **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

10/22 to Present      Employed by Stephens Natural Resources, LLC, The Woodlands, Texas, as Sr. Vice President – Land & Business Development. Responsibilities include directing and leading all land, land administration, and business development functions for the Company.

3/21 to 9/22            Employed by The University of Oklahoma Foundation, Inc., as Director of Mineral Interests. Responsibilities included directing and managing all land and land-related functions for the Foundation.

7/17 to 2/21            Employed by Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as Vice President – Land from July 2017 to February 5, 2021. Responsibilities included leading, directing, and supervising a Land staff of over 110 professional personnel, covering Land, Surface, Right-of-Way & Surface Damage Claim issues and related contracts and agreements on Federal, BLM Lands, BIA Lands, Native American Tribal Lands, Private, and State Lands in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Louisiana, North Dakota, Ohio, and Texas. Also, responsible for all Lease Records and Division Order functions and

related revenue payments, escheat processes and suspense items as to Land activities.

7/98 to 7/17

Employed by Southwestern Energy Company, Houston, Texas, as Sr. Vice President – Land, Business Development & Regulatory from 2015 to 2017, and was Sr. Vice President – Land & Business Development from 2007 to 2015. Prior to those respective positions, was the Vice President – Land (March 2001-2007). Originally joined Southwestern Energy Company as Manager – Land in July 1998. Responsibilities have included directing and supervising a staff of over 180 professional personnel (including Land, Rights-of-Way, Surface, Fee Properties, Lease Records, Division Orders and Regulatory) in all day-to-day activities. Further, responsible for the annual Corporate Land Budget that has exceeded over \$60 Million in certain years. In the past have also directed all the corporate recruiting efforts for the Company that ultimately hired over 600 personnel, both professional and non-exempt. A few significant accomplishments have included the identification, negotiation, and acquisition of the Overton Field in East Texas for \$6 Million which was later sold for \$175 Million; assisting in the River Ridge Acquisition in the Permian Basin; and assembling and leading the leasehold acquisition efforts that amassed over 900,000 net leasehold acres in the Fayetteville Shale in the Arkoma Basin which currently produces in gross approximately 1.9 BCF daily. Further, was a part of the Southwestern Energy Management Team that grew the Company from a Net Daily Production of less than 90 Million Cubic Feet to over 1 BCF. In 2014, was the leading Land person involved in the \$5 Billion acquisition of the West Virginia/Pennsylvania properties from Chesapeake Energy Corporation. Recently, involved in the disposition of Arkoma, East Texas and Appalachian properties that exceeded \$700 Million in sales proceeds net to the Company without any price reductions for title matters/issues. To date, have been involved in transactions as a purchaser or seller amounting to over \$8.5 Billion in value.

5/97 to 6/98

Employed by Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation, Houston, Texas, as Gulf Coast Regional Land Manager. Responsibilities included directing and supervising a staff of 6 Land personnel in day-to-day Land activities. Also, managed the annual Land Budget of approximately \$6,000,000 in the Gulf Coast Region. Significant accomplishments included the identification, negotiation, drafting and closing of the Etoufee Transaction with Union Pacific Resources Company that ultimately led to a significant gas discovery in South Louisiana for the Company.

- 10/91 to 5/97      Employed by Enron Oil & Gas Company (EOG Resources, Inc.), Houston, Texas, as a Project Landman. Responsibilities included lease and right-of-way acquisitions in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Significant accomplishments included being directly responsible for the introduction of EOG into Carthage Field Panola County, Texas and in to the Gwinville Field in the Mississippi Salt Basin. At the time of departure, EOG was producing over 100 MMCFE/Day on a net basis as to projects initiated by me.
- 6/89 to 9/91      Employed by Columbia Gas Development Corporation, Houston, Texas, as a Landman. Responsibilities included lease and right-of-way acquisitions in Mississippi and Louisiana. Preparation of sales brochures, coordination, and final disposition of interests in five (5) internally generated prospects per year. The acquisition of an interest in ten (10) outside generated prospects per year. Negotiation and drafting of farmouts, farmins, exploration agreements, operating agreements, and other pertinent contracts. Also, significant accomplishments included being directly responsible for the sale, negotiation, drafting and management of an Exploration Program covering Southeast Mississippi. The supervision and coordination of lease brokers and other various types of land management functions.
- 8/83 to 6/89      Employed by Fina Oil and Chemical Company, Houston, Texas, as a Landman. Responsibilities included lease and right-of-way acquisitions in South Texas, West Texas, and Louisiana. Negotiated and drafted farmouts, farmins and other pertinent contracts. Assisted in the analysis, due diligence, and acquisition of producing properties totaling millions in value. Cured title, settled surface damages, and assisted in the preparation of division orders. Also, responsible for the coordination, implementation, and integration of a land data system and the supervision of training for the respective district offices.
- 5/82 - 8/82      Employed by Sun Oil Company as Landman Trainee in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Responsibilities included lease acquisition, extensive courthouse work, evaluation of potential prospects and intensive field negotiations.

**SKILLS:**

Established Oil and Gas Industry & Property Rights Executive who has a demonstrated successful track record of leading, leasing, negotiating and drafting various types of rights - of-way, surface leases, permits, leases, contracts, trade agreements, sales/divestitures, and business development agreements pertaining to geographic areas including Appalachia, Arkoma, Rocky Mountains, Canada, Oklahoma, Offshore, East Texas, South Texas, West

Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, North Dakota, and Louisiana, and BLM Lands, BIA Lands, Native American Tribal Lands, and State Lands. Leading, planning, organizing, and completing new projects to add/enhance the value proposition. Handling a variety of tasks and responsibilities simultaneously and efficiently. Communicating and coordinating efforts with various departments internally and legislative/regulatory agencies externally. Major focus is to accomplish (not just merely discuss) joint tasks via either leading or working on a team. Tremendous contacts throughout the industry ranging from Managers to Executives to CEO's of various organizations. Strong negotiating skills with an emphasis on achieving desired results. Well-rounded training in all phases of land/business development efforts and relevant oil and gas industry experience. Computer literacy in various software computer applications such as Outlook, Horizon Land, LandView, P2 and TobinLand and other related databases. Self-starter, self-motivated and aggressive.

### **HONORS, ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:**

- Certified Professional Landman since 1987
- American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) President (2011-2012) & Third Vice President (2007-2008)
- Member, AAPL since 1982
- Past Member, AAPL Regional Board of Directors representing the North Houston Association of Professional Landmen (NHAPL) 2004-2007
- Past Member, AAPL Coal Bed Methane JOA Committee
- Past Member, AAPL C.P.L. Certification Committee (2004-2006)
- Past Member, AAPL Legislative/Regulatory Committee
- Past Member/Assistant Chairman of AAPL Education Committee (2006 and 2007)
- 2005 AAPL National Landman of the Year
- Past Member, AAPL Texas Land Institute Speakers Committee (held annually at Minute Maid Park in Houston)
- Past Member, North Houston Association of Professional Landmen (NHAPL)
- Past President of NHAPL (2003-2004)
- Past Member, Houston Association of Professional Landmen (HAPL)
- Past Chairman of HAPL Education Committee
- Past Member, Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors (LIOGA)
- Past Member, Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO)
- Past Member, Houston Producers Forum (HPF)
- Past Chairman, The University of Oklahoma Energy Management Board of Advisors & Current Member, Price College of Business Board of Advisors
- Past Member, The University of Tulsa Petroleum Land Management Board of Advisors
- Current Member of the Price College of Business Board of Advisors at The University of Oklahoma
- Founding & Past Member, West Virginia University Land Management Board of Advisors

- Responsible for obtaining Keynote Speakers at the 2010 & 2013 AAPL National Conventions
- Responsible for obtaining the Keynote Speaker at the Winter NAPE 2011 Conference
- Frequent Speaker at Oil & Gas Industry Seminars
- Established the NAPE Breakfast Speakers Series that hosted T. Boone Pickens as the inaugural speaker.
- Originated the interview sessions to select the AAPL Student of the Year Honoree
- Established the charter for and selected the members of the AAPL Committee that drafted and completed the 2015 Operating Agreement
- Past Member, Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum Board of Advisors
- Current Vice-Chairman of The University of Oklahoma Presidents Associates Council
- Recipient of The University of Oklahoma Regents Award 2017
- Commencement Speaker at The University of Oklahoma Price College of Business December 2014