

Pioneer Award

Please attach this form to your one page nomination for AAPL Pioneer Award summarizing: **1) Significant impact to the land profession with a distinct contribution; 2) Only one award per year to be presented; 3) No regional awards; 4) No minimum age or work requirement; 5) could be posthumously; 6) Open to groups or companies, not just individuals. (Can be non-members)** To be presented to an individual, group or company who at any time has significantly impacted the land profession with a fundamentally distinct contribution. Current Executive Committee members may not be submitted, and self-nominations will not be considered.

NAME OF NOMINEE/COMPANY/GROUP: Paul Nielsen

LOCAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION: Houston Association of Professional Landmen

NOMINATED BY: Houston Association of Professional Landmen

**AAPL 2022 Pioneer Award
Paul Nielsen, CPL, JD**

Paul holds a BA degree in Political Science from the University of Houston and a JD from the University of Texas School of Law. He has been a Certified Professional Landman (CPL) since AAPL established the program in 1980.

Paul is a Pioneer and made a significant contribution to the landman profession through his creation and maintenance of the LANDNEWS newsletter. LANDNEWS was relied upon by the land profession nationally with a circulation of over 6,000. An invaluable source of information, LANDNEWS delivered accurate and up to date information on industry trends, job openings, retirements, deaths, new entries into the land profession, as well as contact information for landmen changing companies. LANDNEWS is now managed by the AAPL.

Paul began his career at Exxon in March of 1973. He worked in various capacities for almost a decade and was the Titles Supervisor for the Gulf Coast Exploration and East Texas Production Divisions when he resigned. He continued his career at Louisiana Land and Exploration, Co., working and supervising land functions in Texas, New Mexico, and the Gulf of Mexico. For the next decade, Paul was the Vice-President of Oil, Gas & Real Estate for the River Oaks Bank & Trust Company, now Compass Bank. Paul moved on to become the Contracts Manager for Challenger Minerals Inc., a subsidiary of GlobalSantaFe, now Transocean Worldwide Inc. Paul managed the land department with assets in GOM, the North Sea, and offshore West Africa among others. He led the sale of the subsidiary following the unfortunate BP Macondo incident. Paul then worked as an Oil and Gas Attorney for Kilburn Law Firm and has served as a Consulting Manager for Wandoo Energy, LLC. He has almost fifty years of experience as a landman working a large variety of activities in that time.

Paul is an active member of the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) and the Houston (HAPL), West Houston (WHAPL) & North Houston (NHAPL) local landmen's associations. He is a past member of the Corpus Christi and East Texas (Tyler) associations. Paul served as HAPL's President in 1992-93 and received its Outstanding Landman Award in 1993, and a similar award from WHAPL in 2007. Paul cofounded the ADAM-Houston Energy Network and is a past member of the Houston Producers' Forum, the IPAA, TIPRO, PLANO, and AIPN.

In August 2012, Texas Monthly magazine named Paul in the initial TIPRO Poll as one of the Texas Top Producers in the Landman category. He has been a regular speaker at professional events throughout his career. As a licensed Texas attorney, he is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Houston Bar Association and the Oil, Gas & Mineral Law section of each. Paul is also active in Memorial Drive United Methodist Church in West Houston.

Paul continues to be a generous contributor to various charities both financially and physically. He was recognized with the 1988 AAPL Citizen Award.

Paul has made a lasting impact on the land profession and industry. He has spent countless hours working to improve and support AAPL and local associations. He's served on several AAPL Committees, has served as an advisor in numerous groups and initiatives industry-wide and less formally, Paul has been a friend and mentor to innumerable landmen over the last four decades.

Paul Nielsen - Headshot

