

Charles Sartain

Partner

Charles Sartain is an experienced trial lawyer who primarily focuses on resolving complex energy disputes in Texas and Louisiana through litigation, arbitration and negotiation. His clients include oil and gas producers and investors, midstream transportation operators, and mineral and royalty owners involved all types of contractual, payment and operational disputes.

In addition to his energy litigation practice, Charles handles commercial disputes for healthcare providers and other businesses covering a broad range of issues, including breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, non-compete agreements, trade secret theft, partnership terminations, injunctions, employment discrimination, and collections. He is also on the short list for parties seeking an arbitrator with deep experience in resolving commercial disputes involving energy, healthcare, non-compete agreements and trade secrets.

Before starting his private practice, Charles worked as in-house transactional counsel for Sun Oil Company, where he learned the nuts and bolts of contract and title law and gained a first-hand understanding of clients' goals and concerns within the energy industry. This experience gave Charles a rare insider's knowledge of the oil and gas business, and over time he found that his problem-solving and negotiation skills are a perfect match for litigation, arbitration and prevention of commercial disputes.

Dedicated to helping clients stay current on the best ways to protect their businesses, Charles is the author and editor of [Energy & The Law](#), a blog focused on exploring critical developments in the energy industry and how they impact clients from a legal and business perspective.

Representative Experience

- Representation of oil and gas producers in disputes



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Industries
Energy
Healthcare

Practices
Energy Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Healthcare Litigation

Education
J.D., Louisiana State University
(1976)
B.S., Louisiana State University
(1973)

Bar Admissions
Texas
Louisiana

involving royalty payments, lease maintenance, oil field operations, natural gas contracts, gas plant accounting, pooling and unitization, operating agreements, and land and lease titles.

- Prosecution and defense of commercial disputes such as breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, corporate governance, fraud.
- Collection of multi-million dollar debts in state and federal courts and before arbitration panels.
- Obtained a total summary judgment on 12 different claims by a lessor under an oil and gas lease against a midstream operator.
- Recovery of title to Eagle Ford mineral interests after overcoming limitations defenses arising out of 80 years of failure to assert ownership.
- Successful prosecution of theft of trade secrets and breaches of non-competition covenants for hospitals and healthcare provider partnerships.
- Recovery of multi-million dollar arbitration award on behalf of an operator against a drilling consultant for damage to the well and wellbore.
- Successful defense of a multi-million dollar breach of contract suit by a former employee of a midstream operator.
- Rare successful prosecution of election fraud, resulting in a new election.
- Successful defense of oil-field tubular supplier against a claim of pipe failure in the hole and allegations of \$14 million of well and reservoir damage.
- Participated as a neutral in scores of energy, healthcare and commercial arbitrations as sole arbitrator, panel

chair, or panel member.

Press Releases

- “Gray Reed Attorneys Named 2024 Best Lawyers in America,” (August 17, 2023)
- “Gray Reed Partner Charlie Sartain Named Top Energy Author in JD Supra’s 2023 Readers’ Choice Awards,” (March 6, 2023)
- “Gray Reed Announces New Energy Practice Group and Industry Team Leaders,” (July 27, 2022)
- “Two Gray Reed Energy Attorneys Recognized in JD Supra’s 2022 Readers’ Choice Awards,” (March 7, 2022)
- “Gray Reed Partner Charlie Sartain Named Top Energy Author in JD Supra’s 2021 Readers’ Choice Awards,” (March 31, 2021)
- “Gray Reed Partner Charlie Sartain Named Top Energy Author in JD Supra’s 2020 Readers’ Choice Awards,” (April 29, 2020)
- “Gray Reed Establishes Task Force to Help Get Clients “Back to Business”,” (April 21, 2020)
- “Gray Reed Partner Charlie Sartain Named Top Author in JD Supra’s 2019 Readers’ Choice Awards,” (March 27, 2019)
- “Gray Reed Attorney Receives JD Supra’s 2018 Reader’s Choice Award for Energy & The Law Blog,” (March 19, 2018)
- “Four Gray Reed Attorneys Speak at Dallas Bar Association’s Annual Energy CLE Program,” (August 11, 2017)
- “Gray Reed Receives JD Supra’s 2017 Reader’s Choice

Award for Energy & The Law Blog,” (March 22, 2017)

- “Gray Reed’s Charles Sartain Named Top Author by JD Supra,” (March 15, 2016)
- “New Blog Focuses on Texas Energy Law,” (April 11, 2012)
- “Charlie Sartain Appointed to Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association’s Sunset Task Force,” (October 19, 2009)

Thought Leadership

- “Who Won and Who Didn’t: The 2021 Texas Legislature and Energy,” *DAPL Newsletter* (October 2021)
- “Summary of Written Comments on Texas Railroad Commission April 14 Hearing on Prorationing,” Gray Reed Legal Alert (April 17, 2020)
- “Texas Court Divides On Offset Well Case,” *The American Oil & Gas Reporter* (August 2018)
- “Must an Offset Well Clause be Reasonably Calculated to Prevent Drainage? Not in the Eagle Ford, According to the Texas Supreme Court,” Gray Reed Legal Alert (June 28, 2018)
- “Texas Nuisance Law Clarified,” *Dallas Bar Association’s Headnotes* (July 24, 2017)
- “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?,” *TIPRO Target Newsletter* (February 2, 2017)
- “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?,” *Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen (DAPL) February Newsletter* (February 2, 2017)

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- “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?,” *Houston Association of Professional Landmen (HAPL) February Newsletter* (February 1, 2017)
 - “Landmen as Independent Contractors: Is the Government’s Voluntary Settlement Program Too Good to Pass Up?,” *Landman Magazine* (January 3, 2017)
 - “Who Pays for the Well After the Lease Terminates? Wagner & Brown v. Sheppard – The Rest of the Story ,” (December 11, 2009)
 - “Oil and Gas Operator Liability Addressed in Recent Texas Supreme Court Rulings,” (April 27, 2009)

Speeches and Presentations

- “Case Law Update,” DBA Energy Law Section 38th Annual Review of Energy Law (August 18, 2023)
- “Case Law Update,” AAPL Annual Meeting (June 15, 2023)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2022,” East Texas Association of Petroleum Landmen (January 19, 2023)
- “Case Law Update,” DBA Energy Law Section 37th Annual Review of Energy Law (August 4, 2022)
- “Top 10 Recent Texas Oil & Gas Cases ,” Ft. Worth Association of Professional Landmen (July 21, 2022)
- “Case Law Update,” AAPL Annual Meeting (June 16, 2022)
- “Top 10 Cases of 2021,” DALWORTH Association of Division Order Analysts (April 19, 2022)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2021,” Dallas

Association of Petroleum Landmen / Young Professionals in Energy – Dallas / Women's Energy Network – North Texas / Dallas Geological Society (April 7, 2022)

- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2021,” East Texas Association of Petroleum Landmen (January 20, 2022)
- “How are the Courts Treating the Correction Deed Statutes,” AAPL 2021 Southwest Land Institute (August 31, 2021)
- “6 Oil & Gas Cases You Might Be Interested In,” Dallas Bar Association – Energy Section (July 21, 2021)
- “Top 10 Texas Energy Cases of 2020,” Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen / Young Professionals in Energy – Dallas / Women's Energy Network – North Texas / Dallas Geological Society (March 23, 2021)
- “My Operator is Making Money and I’m Not. What Can I Do?,” Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (September 15, 2020)
- “Faith & the Law,” Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church (September 6, 2020)
- “Correction Instruments,” TexasBarCLE Oil, Gas & Mineral Title Examination Course (June 18, 2020)
- “Top 10 Texas Oil & Gas Cases of 2019,” Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen (January 22, 2020)
- “Correction Deed and Current Texas Property Code Issues,” National Association of Division Order Analysts 2019 Institute (September 6, 2019)
- “Fact and Fiction in the Fracking Debate,” DAPL Monthly Luncheon (November 6, 2018)
- “Facts and Fantasy in the Fracking Debate,” Dallas Bar Association's Energy Law: Review of Oil & Gas Law XXXIII

(August 3, 2018)

- “The Statute of Frauds in Oil and Gas Transactions: Current Issues,” TexasBarCLE: Oil, Gas & Minerals Title Examination Course (June 14, 2018)
- “The Statute of Frauds in Oil and Gas Transactions: Current Issues,” Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen (May 3, 2018)
- “Lightning in a Wellbore: The Supreme Court Settles an Unsettled Question in Lightning Oil Co. v. Anadarko E&P Onshore, LLC ,” Texas Bar CLE Oil & Gas Disputes (January 25, 2018)
- “Spot Light on Lightning Oil v. Anadarko,” Dallas Bar Association's Energy Law: Review of Oil & Gas Law XXXII (August 11, 2017)
- “Texas Nuisance Law After Crosstex v. Gardiner ,” Dallas Bar Association – Energy Section (April 12, 2017)
- “Facts and Fiction in the Fracking Debate,” ALTAPL Educational Seminar (February 4, 2017)
- “Texas Nuisance Law After Crosstex v. Gardiner ,” State Bar of Texas Oil Gas and Energy Resources Section, Houston, Texas (January 27, 2017)
- “What’s New With Implied and Unwritten Easements?,” AAPL Southwestern Land Institute (April 27, 2015)
- “Keeping Your Trade Secrets Secret,” Dallas Association of Professional Landmen (February 3, 2014)
- “Your Fault, My Fault, Their Fault ... Does It Even Matter? Indemnification And Exculpatory Agreements In The Oil Patch,” AAPL Southwestern Land Institute (April 30, 2013)

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- “A Few Differences Between Texas and Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Law,” Dallas Association of Professional Landmen (February 7, 2011)
 - “A Primer on Confidentiality and Non-Circumvention Agreements,” AAPL Southwest Land Institute (2004)
 - “The Discovery Rule in Texas Oil and Gas Litigation,” State Bar of Texas Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section Report (December 1998)
 - “That’s My Story and I’m Sticking To It: The Creation and Preservation of Evidence as Part of Your Daily Routine,” Dallas Energy Symposium (January 1996)
 - “Legal Issues in Gas Balancing,” Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants – 1994 Oil and Gas Conference (November 1994)
 - “Punitive Damages in Oil and Gas Cases After Moriel and TO v. Alliance Resources,” Dallas Bar Association, Review of Oil and Gas IX (August 1994)

Honors

- Recognized as the “Lawyer of the Year” for Energy Law in Dallas by *The Best Lawyers in America* (2020)
- Selected by his peers for inclusion in Woodward/White, Inc.’s *The Best Lawyers in America* in the fields of Commercial Litigation and Energy Law (2008 – 2024)
- Named a “Super Lawyer” by Texas Super Lawyers (a Thomson Reuters company) as published in *Texas Monthly* (2005 – 2020)
- Named a Top Author in JD Supra’s Reader’s Choice Awards (2016 – 2023)
- Selected as a Best Lawyer in Dallas by *D Magazine* (2017,

2022)

- AV Preeminent® rated (the highest possible Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating designation)
- Omicron Delta Kappa

Organizational Involvement

Professional Activities, Memberships & Affiliations

- State Bar of Texas
 - Litigation Section
 - Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Section
 - Healthcare Section
- Louisiana State Bar Association
- Dallas Bar Association
 - Board of Directors, 2000 – 2002
 - Committee Chair: Media Relations, Judiciary and Courthouse Committees and Energy Law Section
- American Arbitration Association commercial arbitration panel
- Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO)
- Octavo Systems, LLC, Board of Directors

Community Involvement, Memberships & Affiliations

- Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church senior warden, vestry, rector search committee

- Dallas County Republican Party, General Counsel (1994 – 2008)
- Saint Michael & All Angels Foundation, President (2017 – 2019)
- Leadership Dallas