I would like to nominate Kelly Muldoon, J.D., CPL for AAPL’s Landman of the Year

Kelly Muldoon is Vice President of Land and Business Development for Ursa Operating Company in Denver, CO. The last few years were landmark years for regulatory issues in the state of Colorado and the future of the oil industry across the country. With the current pricing climate and existing in a state suffering regulatory turmoil, Kelly has taken on the task of leading an asset for Ursa on the Western Slope, which has put him on the forefront representing the industry through a variety of venues including serving on the Colorado Oil & Gas Association’s (COGA) Steering to further their mission of “promoting the beneficial, efficient, responsible, and environmentally sound development, production and use of Colorado oil and natural gases” and is actively involved in shaping the new rulemaking in a manner favorable to our industry.

He is also a active and contributing member of the American Petroleum Institute and the Western Energy Alliance. These organizations’ missions align with his goal of influencing public policy in a manner that will support a strongr oil and gas community. In December, 2019, he was awarded the Denver Association of Petroleum Landmen’s Landman of the Year for the local chapter.

His accomplishments throughout his career cover a lot of ground. After graduating from St. Mary’s University of Law, he ventured out to the exotic lands of South Texas where he worked as a field landman. He transitioned to in-house at XTO Energy where he eventually oversaw acquisitions and divestitures. His work at XTO spanned over 30 states, 200 counties and more than 15,000 wellbores. He then led the transfer of all of Exxon’s lower 48 assets to XTO. Leaving XTO, he moved to Colorado where he accepted a position at Bill Barrett Corporation leading the land department. He then accepted his present position as VP of Land and Business Development at Ursa Operating Company.

While not busy bettering the oil and gas community, he enjoys volunteering with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and United Way. He is also the founding member of the Rice Peer Counseling and STAR Program. He is widely regarded as a mentor by many and continues to give back to his community, both professional and personal.

*(On a personal note by the nominator, I have been in the Oil & Gas industry my entire life. My father was a Petroleum Engineer who owned his own operating company in Houston. After I moved to Colorado in 1978, I started my career in the industry working my way up from draftsman to landman. I have observed this industry through its ups and downs over 60 years and the new landmen need to become vocal advocates for the importance of the products we all have a hand in producing. People’s lives depend on it! I have had the pleasure of appearing and testifying alongside Kelly at various legislative and Oil & Gas events. One of my favorite quotes that I stole from Kelly is* ***“Decisions are made by those who show up.  And if you don’t have a seat at the table at least make sure you’re not on the menu.”****Nationwide our industry is becoming part of the menu and we need people like Kelly to lead us to the future!)*