

Lifetime Achievement Award

Please attach this form to your one-page nomination for AAPL Lifetime Achievement Award summarizing: **1) Demonstrated Leadership; 2) Integrity; 3) Contribution to Profession; 4) Contribution to Industry and; 5) Contribution to Community** for nominee's entire land career. Active Members and Retired Active Members may be considered for this award. Current Executive Committee members may not be submitted, and self-nominations will not be considered. Photograph (or negative) of the nominee should be attached to the entry.

NAME OF NOMINEE: Leo Kantowski, RPL

LOCAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION: Tulsa Association of Petroleum Landmen

NOMINATED BY: Mariena Martin, President

Leo grew up in Norman, OK in a loving family where as a young man he learned the important life lessons of working hard and playing well with others. In school he showed great potential academically and excelled in athletics. After a stellar high school football career, he joined the nationally ranked University of Oklahoma Sooner football team as a walk-on offensive lineman. It was during this period that he began to develop exceptional risk-reward judgement skills. After a season on the scout team blocking against several All-American and future NFL defensive linemen, he made the fateful and wise decision to focus on the pursuit of his Petroleum Land Management degree. Upon graduation with that degree in May 1979 he launched a long and impactful career with stints as a Landman at Sun Oil, Grace Petroleum, and Valero in Dallas and Oklahoma City. At the low of the mid-80's oil bust he accepted a position with Kaiser Francis Oil Company in Tulsa in December 1985, where he contributed in a variety of capacities and worked multiple basins for over 18 years. In April 2004 he joined cross-town rival Samson and has accepted positions of increasing responsibility, eventually ascending to his current role of General Manager of Land. As a key contributor during a period of tremendous company growth, he ran large-scale leasing programs, negotiated numerous joint ventures and legal agreements, and closed large numbers of asset deals of all shapes and sizes. He currently shepherds all Land processes for Samson Energy and the Schusterman Family interests. Throughout his career he has been known for his work ethic, tough but fair deal making, and depth of Land and contract knowledge. He's been a mentor to countless Landmen starting their careers and a resource to any who reach out seeking Land advice. Many of the individuals that Leo has mentored are in leadership positions and the industry is objectively better off because of it. Away from work he enjoys a taking in a variety of sports, sipping good whiskey, and traveling with his beloved wife, Laura. He is the consummate Land professional and many in the Tulsa area and beyond are blessed to call him colleague and friend.

