Richard Hines, Chairman

Nominating Committee

It is my pleasure to nominate Mike Curry for the Lifetime Achievement Award. I have known Mike for over 25 years and know him to be an excellent choice for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Anybody that has been involved with the AAPL for any length of time will know that Mike has been dedicated to serving our industry each and every year and is most deserving of this honor.

Mike is a shareholder in the firm's Oil, Gas, and Energy Resources Section. He is Board Certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, is a former member of the State Bar of Texas Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Council, and is also licensed to practice in New Mexico. He is a member, past director, and former President of the Permian Basin Landmens Association. Mike is a past Chairman of the Forms Committee for the American Association of Professional Landmen and currently serves on the task forces for the 2013 operating agreement revision and the CPL examination.  In addition, he has served two terms, including one as chairman, on the City of Midland Planning and Zoning Commission.

**AREAS OF CONCENTRATION**

**Oil and Gas Title Examination and Transactional Work**

Mike frequently prepares oil and gas title opinions, including all types of drilling, division order, and acquisition title opinions covering state, federal, and privately owned lands in Texas and New Mexico. The drafting of deeds, leases, operating agreements, farmout agreements, oil and gas leases and assignments, purchase and sale agreements, lending documentation, and similar documents necessary to explore for and develop oil and gas both onshore and offshore is also a regular part of Mike's practice.

**Oil and Gas Litigation**

Mike often teams up with members of the firm's Litigation Section when oil and gas matters are involved in a lawsuit. Mike has participated in state and federal court cases involving construction and enforcement of operating agreements, operator removal problems, areas of mutual interest, Relinquishment Act claims, partition of producing properties, gas processing claims, class actions, and other oil and gas related matters.

**Expert Witness**

Mike serves from time to time as an expert witness in complex oil and gas disputes involving exploration agreements, operating agreements and areas of mutual intent.

**Real Estate Transactions and Ranching**

Mike advises clients in connection with real estate and ranching activities. This representation includes such matters as conveyancing, subdivision matters, access matters, trespass, purchase and sale transactions, environmental matters, agricultural and hunting leases.

**Probate and Estate Work**

Mike works with the Estate Planning and Probate Section in connection with real property matters and conveyancing related to decedent's estates and estate planning. In addition, he supervises ancillary probate proceedings conducted by the firm in New Mexico state courts.

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

Mike worked as a landman in the oil and gas industry and in the coal and lignite industry prior to law school. His land experience includes all aspects of the oil and gas industry and ranges geographically from the Gulf Coast to the Rocky Mountains. Mike worked as an independent landman, a field supervisor for a large brokerage company, and an in-house landman for a major oil company.  He is a Certified Professional Landman.

**EDUCATION**

* University of Texas, 1973
* J.D., cum laude, Texas Tech University School of Law, 1989

While in law school he was on the National Moot Court Team as brief writer, was a Note Editor for the Texas Tech Law Review, was a member of the Order of the Coif, and was elected as class speaker.

**Areas of Practice:**

Oil and Gas Title Examination and Transactional Work

Oil and Gas Litigation

Real Estate Transactions and Ranching

Probate and Estate Work

**Certification/Specialties:**

Board Certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization

**Bar Admissions:**

Texas, 1990

New Mexico, 1990

**Education:**

Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, Texas, 1989
J.D.
*Honors:*Cum Laude
*Honors:*Order of the Coif
Law Review: Texas Tech Law Review, Note Editor, 1988 - 1989

University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1973
B.S.