SCOTT DOUGLASS McCONNICO

Olga Kobzar

PARTNER

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Overview

Olga practices energy law with an emphasis on oil and gas litigation, complex commercial litigation, and regulatory matters in front of the Texas Railroad Commission. She advises operators, landowners, disposal solution providers, wastewater treatment companies, and other energy clients in regulatory and litigation matters and appeals in state and federal appellate courts.

Olga earned her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law, with honors, and her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University, summa cum laude. She also holds an M.B.A. from Texas Tech. During law school, Olga served as a judicial intern to Justice James Campbell of the Seventh Court of Appeals of Texas and was the Managing Editor of the Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law.

Before joining Scott Douglass & McConnico LLP, Olga was a Briefing Attorney for Justice Debra Lehrmann of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Experience

First and second-chair responsibility in protested and unprotested hearings at the Texas Railroad Commission, including disposal facilities, natural gas liquids storage, field rule amendments, and Rule 37 disputes.

First and second-chair responsibility in state and federal court litigation including royalty disputes, class action litigation, and breach of contract cases including hearings, depositions, drafting substantive motions, mediations, and settlement negotiations.

Represented clients in appeals in the Thirteenth Court of Appeals, the Fourteenth Court of Appeals, the Texas Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Argued before the Thirteenth Court of Appeals.

Recent Results:

- Represented oil and gas operators in post-plugging liability litigation in Travis County District Court and negotiated settlements with the Texas Office of the Attorney General.
- Successfully resolved a Southern District of Texas breach of contract dispute between a large oil and gas producer and its service provider by obtaining a favorable settlement in mediation.
- As part of a team, defeated class action certification in a royalty underpayment litigation in the Northern District of Texas.
- As part of a team, obtained dismissal in another Northern District of Texas royalty underpayment litigation, which was later upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Obtained a favorable result in a Railroad Commission hearing to permit a large-scale natural gas liquids storage facility.
- Represented multiple clients in Safety Audit Act proceedings at the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality obtaining successful audit closures.
- Defeated opposing party's attempt to appeal lower court's decision to the Texas Supreme Court.

Awards

- Texas Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business, Up and Coming Texas Women Top 50, 2019 & 2020
- Texas Rising Star, a Thomson Reuters business, Energy & Natural Resources, 2016-2020
- Austin Monthly, Austin's Top Attorneys 2020, 2021, 2022 in Energy, Oil & Gas
- Recipient, Kristi Couvillon Pro Bono Heroes Award by the Texas Civil Rights Project, 2012
- Managing Editor, Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law, 2009-2010
- Editorial Board Member, Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law, 2008-2009
- Recipient, Endowed Presidential Scholarship, The University of Texas School of Law, 2007-2010

Articles & Presentations

- Speaker, Ethical Issues in Oil & Gas Practice Panel, 15th Annual Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Symposium, February 2020.
- Speaker, Regulatory Update presentation on recent developments at the Texas Railroad Commission and the General Land Office, 14th Annual Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Symposium, February 2019.
- Speaker, Regulatory Update presentation on recent developments at the Texas Railroad Commission and the General Land Office, Austin Bar Association, Oil and Gas Section, January 2019.
- Speaker, Ethical Issues in Oil & Gas Practice Panel, 15th Annual Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Symposium, February 2020.
- Speaker, Regulatory Update presentation on recent developments at the Texas Railroad Commission and the General Land Office, 14th Annual Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law Symposium, February 2019.
- Speaker, Regulatory Update presentation on recent developments at the Texas Railroad Commission and the General Land Office, Austin Bar Association, Oil and Gas Section, January 2019.
- “The Texas Oil and Gas Industry: Its Present Shape and Future Outlook” - Panelist, Texas Aggie Bar Association Annual Conference, March 2018.
- Speaker, "Supreme Court Update on Oil and Gas Related Cases," Texas State Bar Oil & Gas Disputes CLE, January 2018.
- Speaker, "Supreme Court Update on Oil and Gas Related Cases," Texas State Bar Oil & Gas Disputes CLE, January 2018.
- Speaker, “General Land Office Lands and Leasing: Tips, Tricks, and Traps,” Oil Gas & Mineral Titles Examination Course, 2015.
- Speaker, “Injection/Disposal Well Permitting and Protesting,” Oil & Gas Regulation in Texas Seminar, 2015.
- Co-author, “Death, Taxes, and the General Land Office: A Title Examiner’s Guide to Life’s Third Certainty,” Oil Gas & Mineral Titles Examination Course Materials, 2014.
- Speaker, “Death, Taxes, and the GLO – a Guide to Dealing with Life’s Third Certainty,” Oil & Gas Regulation in Texas Seminar, 2014.
- Author, “Texas Counties’ Authority to Mandate Construction Permits and Road Use Agreements,” AAPL Landman Magazine, 2014.
- Speaker, “Fracing, Fracking, Fracturing – Overview and Recent Developments,” Travis County Women Lawyers Association Annual CLE, 2014.
- Co-author, “Developing Issues Related to Saltwater Disposal in Texas: A Discussion of Current Legal and Regulatory Developments,” Earnest E. Smith Oil & Gas Seminar materials, 2013.
- Speaker, “Saltwater Disposal Issues in Texas,” Oil & Gas Regulation in Texas Seminar, 2013.
- Co-author, “Regulatory Update: Recent Developments at the Railroad Commission and General Land Office,” Texas Bar Journal, 2012.
- Research published in “Square Pegs, Round Holes: The Application and Evolution of Traditional Legal and Regulatory Concepts for Horizontal Wells,” 7 TEX. J. OIL GAS & ENERGY L. 178, 2012.

- Co-author, “Regulatory Update: Recent Developments at the Railroad Commission and General Land Office,” presented at the 2012 Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Institute, 2012.
- Co-author, “Lesley v. Veterans Land Board: Revisiting the Scope of the Duty Owed by Executive Mineral Owners to Non-Executive Mineral Owners,” 5 TEX. J. OIL GAS & ENERGY L. 138, 2010.
- Co-author, “Are Mandatory Mediation Clauses in Residential Purchase Contracts Enforceable?” Alternative Resolutions, Fall 2006 Vol. 15 No. 4.

News & Insights

- Olga Kobzar Speaks at Aggie Bar Conference
- Seven SDM Lawyers Named to Texas Rising Stars®
- Olga Kobzar named one of Up-and-Coming 50 Women Texas Rising Stars
- Olga Kobzar Presents TRC and GLO Regulatory Update
- Six SDM Lawyers Named to Texas Rising Stars®
- SDM Women Recognized on Austin Monthly's Top Attorneys List
- Top Attorneys named by Austin Monthly Magazine

Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Oil & Gas Litigation
- Oil & Gas Regulatory
- Business Litigation & Torts
- Oil & Gas Business Advice

Education

- The University of Texas School of Law, J.D., with honors, 2010
- Texas Tech University, M.B.A., with honors, 2001
- Texas Tech University, B.A. in Political Science, minor in Business Administration, summa cum laude, 1998

Admissions

- State Bar of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western Districts of Texas

- U.S. Court of Appeals
- Fifth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

Activities

- President, Texas Energy Law Association (TELA)
- Treasurer, Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Section of the Austin Bar Association
- Invited Fellow Under Forty, Travis County Women Lawyers' Foundation