SCOTT DOUGLASS McCONNICO



Ross Sutherland

PARTNER

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Overview

Ross began his career as an entrepreneur building businesses that serviced South Texas oil-field companies.

Since then, Ross earned his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law where he served as Chief Articles Editor for the Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law, and interned at the Railroad Commission of Texas Office in the General Counsel???s Office. Currently, Ross handles numerous matters in front of the Railroad Commission, including MIPA applications, saltwater disposal applications and protests, flaring exceptions, and representing operators in enforcement actions. In addition to his Railroad Commission practice, Ross also regularly practices in Texas state court, representing clients in complex commercial litigation matters.

In addition to his entrepreneurial spirit and legal prowess, Ross is a three-time Wild Hog Catching World Champion & World Record Holder.

Experience

- Obtained a $1.6 million judgment on breach of contract, fraud, and DTPA claims for a client.
- Obtained a take-nothing judgment for defendant after a week-long jury trial for client in Travis County on real estate-related breach of contract claims. Client was awarded all attorney???s fees and costs requested.
- Successfully represent oil and gas operators before the Railroad Commission of Texas, including MIPA applications, saltwater disposal applications and protests, flaring exceptions, and enforcement actions.

Awards

- Best Lawyers??: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, Energy Law, Oil and Gas Law, 2026-2027
- Texas Super??Lawyers?? Rising Stars, Business, 2026

Articles & Presentations

- Authored "Accommodating Concurrent Real Estate and Mineral Development in Urban Areas and Beyond: Revisiting Surface Use Agreements and Chapter 92 of the Natural Resources Code," which he presented at the 51st Annual Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Institute, April 2025.
- Co-Author with Davin McGinnis, ???Relinquishment Act Lands, Leasing and Development: The West Texas Revival,??? presented at the 46th Annual Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Institute, March, 2020

News & Insights

- Ross Sutherland joins the firm as an Associate
- Texas Expands the Railroad Commission???s Authority Over Renewables
- SDM Names Lauren Ditty and Ross Sutherland as Partners
- Railroad Commission Adopts New Rules for Lithium Development in Texas
- SDM Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers????Awards and Best Lawyers Ones to Watch?? in America
- SDM Lawyers Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers?? Awards and Best Lawyers Ones to Watch?? in America
- SDM Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Texas Super Lawyers??

Practice Areas

- Oil & Gas Litigation
- Oil & Gas Regulatory
- Oil & Gas Business Advice
- Renewable Energy
- Business Litigation & Torts

Education

- The University of Texas School of Law, J.D. with High Honors, 2019
  - Chancellor at Large ??? Texas Law
  - Order of the Coif
- The University of Texas at Austin, B.A. Government & Business, 2006
  - UT Silver Spurs ??? BEVO Handler

Admissions

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

Activities

- President ??? Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law Section of Texas State Bar
- Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law ??? Chief Articles Editor
- Dean???s Achievement Awards, Outstanding Student in New Venture Creation and Oil & Gas Law
- Clarence L. Carter Endowed Presidential Scholarship Recipient
- Texas Energy Law Association Scholarship Recipient