RALPH A. CANTAFIO, ESQ.
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EXPERIENCE

Owner Cantafio Law P.C. I practice as a sole practitioner as I reorient my legal practice moving from focusing on commercial and construction and litigation as well as transactional work involving wills, trusts and estate, natural resources/minerals (oil and gas), real estate, and land use to mediation, arbitration and expert witness testimony and consulting emphasizing natural resources, especially upstream oil and gas. December 2023 to present.

Shareholder Cantafio & Song PLLC. As senior law firm member including 25 attorneys, I emphasized oil and gas, wind and solar law and land use; construction, corporate, real estate and commercial law; natural resources mediation and arbitration; and commercial transactions, including residential and commercial real estate. December 2001 through November 2023.

Municipal Judge I was the Municipal Court Judge for the Town of Oak Creek, CO. June 2008 through February 2017.

Adjunct Professor Western State Colorado University, Gunnison. As a part-time member of the Business School faculty, I was responsible for teaching Oil and Gas Agreements and Negotiations. January 2015 through January 2017.

Adjunct Professor Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs. As a part-time member of the Business School Faculty, I was responsible for teaching Legal Environment of Business. January 2014 to December 2016.

Lecturer University of Colorado, Denver. As a faculty member of the Global Energy Management ("GEM") Program, I teach Environmental, Regulatory, Legal and Political Environment of the Energy Industry and Energy Law: Property, Contracts, and Transactions. July 2015 through present.

Lecturer Electric Utility Consultants, Inc. I teach oil & gas industry professionals on oil and natural gas land management, focusing on contracts, leases, permitting, property and mineral ownership, and developmental rights. October 2017 to present.

Lecturer Corporate Partners Solutions. I teach Nigerian energy and natural resources professionals focusing on International Oil & Gas law, International Oil & Gas Contracts, Petroleum Economics, Unitization and Energy Land Management. July 2014 to present.

Lecturer Petromentor International Educators (Beijing). I teach Canadian and American Oil & Gas Law to Chinese petroleum industry professionals educating students primarily assigned to joint ventures between Chinese state oil and gas interests and North American business partners so as to familiarize learners with industry practices in a free market economy. July 2014 to present.

Partner Cantafio and Hardy-Moore, Steamboat Springs, CO. As a partner of a five (5) attorney general practice, my practice emphasized civil and criminal litigation. My practice required regular appearances before Colorado District Courts statewide, as well as the United States District Court, United States Bankruptcy Court, Colorado Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. My caseload emphasized domestic relations, commercial litigation, bankruptcy, personal injury, criminal, corporate, and commercial law. December 1992 through December 2001.

Attorney McGill Professional Law Corporation, Steamboat Springs, CO. As an associate of a four (4) attorney general practice, my caseload emphasized civil and criminal litigation. April 1986 through November 1992.

Staff Attorney Central Pennsylvania Legal Services, Lebanon, PA. As the sole attorney in an office responsible for servicing a county of 100,000 residents, my caseload included advocacy in the areas of domestic relations, landlord and tenant, public housing, public assistance, social security, foreclosure, bankruptcy, consumer affairs, and unemployment compensation. May 1985 through April 1986.

EDUCATION

University of Colorado, Denver: Master of Science in Global Energy Management, June 2013
Colorado School of Mines: Master of Science in Mineral Economics, December 1992
University of Colorado School of Law: Juris Doctorate, December 1984
University of Nevada, Las Vegas: Bachelor of Arts in History, December 1981

BAR MEMBERSHIP

Alaska (inactive), Colorado, North Carolina (inactive), North Dakota (inactive), Oklahoma, Pennsylvania (inactive), Texas, Utah (inactive), and Wyoming.

U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado; U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; U.S. District Court for the Eastern District and Middle District of Pennsylvania (inactive); U.S. District Court for the Southern District and Western District of Texas; U.S. District Court for the Central District of Utah (inactive); U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming; U.S. Claims Court; U.S. Tax Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (inactive), Fifth Circuit and Tenth Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

LEGAL PARTICIPATION

Member, Colorado Supreme Court Hearing Board. The 139 members of this Hearing Board as approved by the Chief Judge of the Colorado Supreme Court are responsible for conducting hearings involving allegations of unethical conduct by Colorado Attorneys: November 2011 through September 2020.

Member, 14th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission. The members of this Commission as approved by the Chief Judge of the Colorado Supreme Court are responsible for assessing the performance of the Judges presiding in Grand, Moffat, and Routt Counties: October 2013 through April 2020.

LICENSES

Real Estate Colorado, 2007 - License No. FA100013817

Designations Graduate, Real Estate Institute (GRI) 2009; Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource (SFR) 2010

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

Oil and Gas Petroleum Land Management; University of Denver, Daniels College of Business: July 2011.
Petroleum Land Management: Energy Finance and Management Track; University of Denver, Daniels College of Business: August 2011.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Member Steamboat Springs RE-2 Technology Commission and Fund Board. As a member of the nine-person committee and Board of Directors overseeing the same, we were responsible for administering $1.7 Million annually to ensure state of the art technological resources to school district students, faculty, and the general community: July 1999 through April 2005.

Member Board of Directors Member of Old Town Hot Springs. As a member of the Board of Directors, we are responsible for a multiuse recreation facility that includes swimming pools, hot springs, cardio equipment, weights, and classes. This 501(c)(3) entity has existed in the heart of Steamboat Springs for over 80 years: July 2008 through February 2017.

Member Board of Directors and Good Neighbor Committee Member of the Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association (Denver). As a member of the Board of Directors, we are responsible for representing residential owners in the historic "LoDo" multiuse downtown neighborhood that includes Coors Field, Union Station and a host of bars, restaurants and retail businesses involving a wide variety of urban issues attempting to balance the rights of residents while nurturing a thriving commercial district: March 2021 through present.

REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL)
Denver Association of Lease and Title Analysts (DALTA)
Denver Association of Professional Landmen (DAPL)
Denver Petroleum Club (DPC)
Energy and Mineral Law Foundation (EMLF)
Energy Bar Association (EBA)
Institute for Energy Law (IEL)
National Association of Lease & Title Analysts (NALTA)
National Association of Royalty Owners (NARO)
Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW)
Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (RMMLF)
Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA)

AWARDS

Outstanding Professor - University of Colorado, Denver, Global Energy Management Program: June 2017
Outstanding Professor - University of Colorado, Denver, Global Energy Management Program: June 2019

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Surface Use Agreement: Representation of the Surface Owner. May 4, 2005
- Understanding, Negotiating and Implementing A Surface Use Agreement. Sept. 17, 2005
- Representing the Surface Owner. Oct. 22, 2005
- Leasing, Top Leasing and Oil and Gas Production on Your Land. June 8, 2006
- Understanding the Oil & Gas Lease and Factors Affecting Termination of the Oil and Gas Lease Resulting in Cancellation. (National Association of Royalty Owners). Sept. 8, 2006
- Oil and Gas Landowner Issues. (Presented to Montana State University). Dec. 20, 2006
- Water Rights: What Every Realtor Should Know. (Steamboat Springs Board of Realtors). Jan. 24, 2008
- Testimony Before the Colorado House of Representatives Regarding House Bill 09-1194. Feb. 18, 2008
- Conservation Easements & Land Trusts for Realtors. (Steamboat Springs Board of Realtors). Feb. 21, 2008
- What Every Realtor Should Know About Foreclosure. (Steamboat Springs Board of Realtors). Nov. 3, 2009
- 2009 Rule Modification/Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission. Apr. 13, 2009
- Statute of Limitations & Deadlines to Contest Underpayment of Royalties. Sept. 12, 2009
- Skier & Boarder Liability 101. Mar. 2010
- Bankruptcy - It's Not a Dirty Word. Apr. 2010
- Understanding & Negotiating the Oil & Gas Lease. Apr. 4, 2011
- Drafting and Understanding the Pugh Clause. Apr. 4, 2011
- Interstate Pipelines: Questions & Answers. Apr. 4, 2011
- Understanding the American Natural Gas Boom - A Short Summary. July 19, 2011
- A Common Sense Guide to a Better Understanding of the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing. Mar. 16, 2012
- Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission New Rule 205A - Hydraulic Fracturing Chemical Disclosure. Mar. 22, 2012

- "Unless" Provisions Oil and Gas Leases Strictly Construed - A Reminder from the Supreme Court of North Dakota. July 18, 2012
- The Battle to Determine the Right to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing: The Preemption Doctrine. (Presentation to the Denver Petroleum Club) Jan. 10, 2013
- Efficient Use of Arbitration: Drafting of Arbitration Clauses. May 9, 2013
- Overview of Permitting of Oil and Gas Wells in Colorado: Understanding the Doctrine of Preemption and the Authority of "Home Rule" Municipalities. (Presentation before the Colorado County Attorneys Annual Conference). June 6, 2013
- Sufficiency in Land Description in Oil & Gas Leases. June 3, 2013
- ROAR (Periodical of the National Association of Royalty Owners): A Discussion of Legal Framework to Regulate Fracking: Federal, State, and Local Concerns. June 2013
- Efficient Use of Arbitration: Drafting of Arbitration Clauses (Published Utah Bar Journal). July/Aug. 2013
- Successful Development of Renewable Energy Projects: Navigating the cloud of Bureaucracy. Presentation to the Colorado Environmental Management Society (CEMS). Oct. 2013
- Denver Petroleum Club - Keynote Breakfast Speaker: The Battle to Determine the Right to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking): The Preemption Doctrine. Jan. 10, 2014
- Pipeline Leadership Conference, University of Denver, Participated as a Panel Member in the Land Management and Acquisition Panel. Nov. 3-4, 2015
- Pipeline Leadership Conference, University of Denver. Presented as to Pipeline Permitting and Dakota Access Pipeline Controversy. Nov. 1-2, 2016
- A Primer on Arbitration Preparation (Utah Bar Journal). Sept. 2017
- National Pipeline Leadership Conference, Dallas, Texas. Presented as to Stakeholder Rights and New Approaches to Environmental Group Intransigence. Nov. 2017
- Pipeline and Gas Journal, Dakota Access Pipeline - Lessons for the Pipeline Industry, Vol. 245, No. 1. Jan. 2018
- Pipeline Energy Expo, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Presented: Dakota Access Pipeline - Harbinger of Things to Come. Apr. 2018
- Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, Denver, Co. Presented: Oil and Gas Law for Geologists. Apr. 2018
- EUCI, Denver, Co. Presented: Joint Operating Agreements (JOAs) - Update to the Model Form - A Review of the New AAPL Form 610 - 2015 Model. Apr. 2018
- Damage Protection Professionals Journal: Recent Legislative Responses to Dakota Access Pipeline and The Critical Infrastructure Control Act co-authored with Heather Johnson. Aug. 2018
- North American Oil and Gas Pipelines: Dakota Access Pipeline, the Critical Infrastructure Control Act and Recent Legislative Responses, co-authored with Heather Johnson. Aug. 2018
- "Legal Implications of Bell v. Land Title," Texas A&M Journal of Property Law, Survey on Oil and Gas, Volume 5, 2018-9. Jan. 2019
- COPAS, presented: Understanding the Impacts and Implications of Senate Bill 181. Mar. 26, 2019
- Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, Denver, Co. Presented: Oil and Gas Law for Geologists. April 8-9, 2019
- COPAS, Presented: Cause and Effect - Senate Bill 181 and the Bigger Picture. May 21, 2019
- EUCI, Denver, Co. Presented: The Appraisal and Valuation of Mineral Interests. June 19-20, 2019
- "Solving the Interconnection Problem," Texas A&M Journal of Property Law, Volume 6, 2020-2021. Jan. 2021
- Half Moon Education, Inc., Presented: Montana Easements, Rights-of-Way, and Eminent Domain. April 2022
- "Perspective on Wildgrass Oil and Gas Committee v. Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission and the Embracing of Associated Standing," Texas A&M Journal of Property Law, Volume 8, 2021-2022. April 2022