

PRACTICE CONTACT

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OIL AND GAS

Vorys has represented clients in the oil and gas industry for decades – producers, pipelines, gathering and local distribution companies, drilling and service companies, and financial institutions. Our oil and gas team is recognized locally, regionally and nationally for its knowledge of the industry.

We have defended natural gas royalty class actions, represented major creditor groups in the Enron and Columbia Transmission bankruptcies, counseled industrial natural gas consumers in supply and regulatory matters, challenged the obstacles to energy development caused by local regulation, and represented lenders and borrowers in transactions secured by oil and gas properties.

We advise our clients on all types of transactional work in the oil field, from simple leasing and well-field service contracts to sophisticated financing agreements and hedging programs. Among other matters, Vorys has helped clients to undertake geophysical surveys, develop master drilling programs, acquire production and pipeline assets, negotiate gas purchase and sales contracts, prepare securities offerings, and to develop one of the largest independent gathering systems in the Appalachian Basin.

Our firm frequently represents clients in energy disputes before state and federal courts and arbitration panels, including those involving gas purchase and sales contracts, lease and joint operating agreements, bankruptcies, and class action royalty litigation. Additionally, our energy lawyers regularly represent clients before state permitting agencies and public utilities commissions, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Ohio and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies. Our attorneys have also advised energy businesses on tax issues that arise from oil and gas exploration.

Vorys lawyers have served the industry in various capacities for energy trade associations and legal foundations, including past and present officers and Board of Trustee members of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, and the Ohio State Bar Association's Natural Resources Law Committee. In Pennsylvania, our attorneys have been active in the Marcellus Shale Coalition, Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association, Michael Late Benedum Chapter of the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) and the Northern Appalachian Landman's Association Chapter of the AAPL.