Court-Appointed Attorney for Donziger Cites ‘Irreconcilable Conflict’

News

Attorney Andrew Frisch asked a Manhattan federal judge on Wednesday to vacate an order forcing him to represent Steven Donziger, the American lawyer who spent more than two decades suing Chevron Corp over pollution in Ecuador and is now facing a trial next week for criminal contempt.

Gas Disaster Settlement Fees in Question

News

A total of $26.1 million of the $143 million Merrimack Valley gas explosion class-action settlement was earmarked for payment of legal fees and administrative costs.

Fifth Circuit Rules “Approximate Physical

Presence” is Required for General Personal Jurisdiction

Insight

Can targeted advertising establish general jurisdiction over a foreign corporation?

Making Big Oil Pay For Climate Change May Be Impossible

Insight

As more governments and taxpayers find themselves staring down the barrel at rising climate costs, they are increasingly turning to the courts to hold Big Oil accountable.

2019 Bad Guys in Energy

Insight

Gray Reed partner Charles Sartain takes a look back at some of 2019’s malefactors in the energy business in a post in the firm’s Energy & the Law blog.

Increased Swaption Activity May Present Financial Reporting Challenges for Oil & Gas Companies

Insight

An increased use of swaptions may help upstream oil and gas producers weather lower natural gas prices, but they present financial reporting challenges.

Wave Goodbye to Unenforceable Mineral Lien Waivers

Insight

A post on the Gray Reed website covers an opinion that will have profound impacts on mineral liens and contractual provisions purporting to waive mineral liens.

Mineral Royalties are Not

‘Personal Effects’ in Texas

News

The mineral interests were real property when her will took effect and, thus, were not personal effects left to the executor.

Legal Fight Over Flaring in the Eagle Ford

News

The dispute, between Williams MLP Operating and Exco Operating Co., has moved to district court in Travis County in Austin.

What is ‘Oil or Gas’ as Used in a Pipeline Easement?

News

The property owner contended that “oil and gas” referred to crude petroleum, but not refined products.

Fake Mineral Leases Thwarted by the Texas Legislature

Insight

The 2019 Texas legislature enacted a new Property Code Section 5.152 to protect mineral and royalty owners from a certain species of fraudulent transactions.

Louisiana Operator’s Bad Faith Does Not Preclude Recovery

News

Charles Sartain summarizes the background of *Apache Deepwater, LLC v. W&T Offshore, Inc.*, a conflict between parties to a joint operating agreement for operations on offshore deepwater wells.

Thompson & Knight Advises Oilfield Water Logistics on Sale to InstarAGF Asset

Management

News

Thompson & Knight LLP advised Oilfield Water Logistics, LLC (OWL) in connection with the sale of its midstream water infrastructure and services business.

Oil and Gas Bankruptcies Showing Increase in 2019

Insight

This increase in year-over-year filings indicates that the reverberations of the 2015 oil price crash continue to be heard in the industry, reports Haynes and Boone.

Legal Battle Continues Over Drilling And Fracking Wastewater Well

News

The long-running legal battle, which is being watched for its potentially precedent-setting outcome, pits a township, which wants to protect water wells from contamination, against a state environmental protection agency.

Gas Well Operator’s Injunction Against Texas Town is Dissolved

News

Gray Reed’s Energy & the Law blog tells the story of *Town of Flower Mound v. Eagle Ridge Operating LLC*, in which an operator’s injunction against enforcement of a local ordinance was dissolved.

LIBOR Phase-Out: Considerations for Oil & Gas Companies

Insight

Oil and gas companies are encouraged to consider the impact of the phase-out to their organization and take steps to assess existing agreements and carefully monitor the execution of new agreements.

Water: The Hot Commodity in the Permian and Elsewhere

Insight

Operators should be proactive in addressing water ownership issues, writes Charles Sartain of Gray Reed & McGraw. A simple contract negotiation at the front-end could save future headaches as disputes over groundwater escalate.

Texas Businessman Lost $6 Million Investing in BP Litigation. Now He’s Blaming His Ex-Lawyers

News

The litigation investment firm’s money evaporated into an allegedly fraudulent scheme to manufacture tens of thousands of plaintiffs.

When is a Hydraulically Fractured Well ‘Complete?’

Insight

Typically, most leases contain savings provisions that extend

the lease beyond the primary term when the lessee ‘continuously prosecutes’ drilling operations, exlains J. Mark Robinette.