Editor's Note: Special congratulations to the ELA's administrative liaison Vickie Adams on the birth on October 10, 2016 of her daughter Jae Alexis Adams.

Coming out of the summer, I have noticed a drop-off in submissions. This may be a good sign that our industry is picking up and everyone is very busy. Hopefully. However, if you have a recent article that you are particularly proud of and want to share with the rest of the industry, please send it for publication.

**US Antitrust Considerations in Oil and Gas Joint Bidding and Area of Mutual Interest Arrangement**

By: Pablo C. Ferrante, Kevin L. Shaw and Mark Ryan, Mayer Brown International LLP

The oil and gas industry widely uses bidding and study agreements, and areas of mutual interest agreements, without giving any thought to possible anti-trust law issues. This Article points out that perhaps a thorough anti-trust analysis is warranted. Read more...

**Negotiating an In-Project Construction Dispute**

By: Ben Pollock and Jeremiah Anderson, King & Spalding LLP

This Article provides some guidance on how to deal with a dispute...
with your contractor while at the same time getting your project completed. Read more...

Members in the News

Jack Balagia, vice president and general counsel, Exxon Mobil Corporation (NYSE:XOM), retired effective Nov. 1, 2016, after more than 18 years of service.

The board of directors elected Randall Ebner as vice president and general counsel for Exxon Mobil Corporation.

A native of Austin, Texas, Balagia joined the Exxon Company, USA Law Department in May 1998 in Houston as counsel in the litigation group. He became coordinator for Upstream litigation in 1999 and assistant general counsel in 2004. He was named to his current position in March 2010.

Balagia, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 65 in October, is a member of numerous professional associations, including a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts, co-chair of the Civil Justice Reform Group, and vice chair of the University of Texas Law School Foundation Board of Trustees. He was also an IEL Advisory Board Member for many years and is currently a Trustee of The Center for American and International Law, which he was elected in 2010.

Balagia earned his J.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law and a bachelor’s degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

Randall Ebner, who co-chaired the 2016 edition of our Mergers & Acquisitions & Divestiture Conference this past April, joined the Exxon Company, USA Law Department in May 1980 in New Orleans, where he was an attorney in the litigation group. He became coordinator of Upstream litigation in Houston in 1998 and undertook several special assignments before being named chief attorney of ExxonMobil Chemical Company in 2000 and chief attorney of ExxonMobil Gas & Power Marketing Company in 2003.

Ebner was named assistant general counsel for the corporation in 2009.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Ebner earned a J.D. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a bachelor’s degree from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Ebner will be speaking at IEL’s 68th Annual Oil & Gas Law Conference in Houston and at its 1st National Young Energy
Professionals’ Conference in New Orleans.

The IEL is excited to welcome a new Sustaining Member:

- **Akerman LLP**, Houston, TX with Martin Beirne, Brit Brown, Benjamin Escobar, Scott Marrs, Andrew McGill, David Pluchinsky, James Rogers as Advisory Board Representatives.

The IEL is proud to welcome a new Supporting Member:

- **The Claro Group**, Houston, TX with Casey Ballard, Paul Brooks and Wayne Wilson as their Advisory Board Member Representatives

As well as 2 new Sponsoring Members:

- **Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP**, Houston, TX, with James Collura as their Advisory Board Member Representative
- **Weaver**, Dallas, TX with Cindy Carradine as their Advisory Board Member Representative

Our newest Young Energy Professional Members are:

- **Saadia Bhatti** (Clyde & Co LLP, London, United Kingdom)
- **Sarah Black** (Range Resources - Appalachia LLC, Canonsburg, PA)
- **Patrice Childress** (Beck Redden LLP, Houston TX)
- **C. Brendan Cummings** (Tesco Corporation, Houston, TX)
- **Thomas Donaho** (Baker & Hostetler LLP, Houston, TX)
- **Ariel Forbes** (Reed Smith LLP, Pittsburgh, PA)
- **Anthony Giresi** (Giresi Land Services LLC, Marietta, OH)
- **Weston Harper** (William D. Farrar & Associates, PLLC, Flint, TX)
- **William Hearne** (Davidson Summers, APLC, Shreveport, LA)
- **Miles Indest** (Haynes and Boone, LLP, Houston, TX)
- **Lucas Liben** (Reed Smith LLP, Pittsburgh, PA)
- **Julie Murphy** (Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Denver, CO)
- **William Petit** (Jackson Gilmour & Dobbs, PC, Houston, TX)
- **Jordan Redmon** (Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, New Orleans, LA)
- **Carrie Schimizzi** (Range Resources - Appalachia LLC, Canonsburg, PA)
- **Bjar Shamsadeen** (B.S.S Law, Erbil, Iran)
- **Patricia Solorzano Flores** (Consortium Legal Honduras, Aberdeen, United Kingdom)
- **John Stretcher** (Legacy Reserves, LP, Midland, TX)
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>4th ITA-IEL-ICC Joint Conference on International Energy Arbitration</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>Jan 12-13, 2017</td>
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<td>Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Law Conference</td>
<td>Plano, TX</td>
<td>Jan 25-26, 2017</td>
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<td>68th Annual Oil &amp; Gas Law Conference</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>Feb 16-17, 2017</td>
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<td>Career Paths for Young Attorneys in the Energy Sector</td>
<td>Ft. Worth, TX</td>
<td>Mar 24-25, 2017</td>
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<td>1st National Young Energy Professionals' Law Conference</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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