

James “JJ” McAnelly III

Partner

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James (JJ) McAnelly is a nationally recognized and well-regarded upstream, midstream and deal lawyer consistently ranked in *Chambers USA* for the last 16 years. As co-chair of the firm's oil and gas practice and with more than 30 years of industry experience, he represents a broad, diverse client-base ranging from majors, independents, oilfields services, private-equity and their portfolio companies in a broad spectrum of transactions including the purchase, sale, restructuring and/or financing of exploration and producing properties, processing plants, production and storage facilities and pipeline systems. With the emergence of the energy transition and given his broad oil and gas experience, he is advising on numerous carbon capture projects, including real property rights and commercial issues involving enhanced oil recovery and CO2 sequestration.

With a stellar reputation for his knowledge and work throughout the energy industry, JJ also regularly advises creditors and debtors in financial restructurings, distressed investments and acquisitions, as well as Chapter 11 proceedings and "363" sale processes.

Recognized by a leading legal publication for doing "a great job with clients," JJ also utilizes his vast experience to assist with the formation of joint ventures, "drillcos" and partnerships for the funding, acquisition, operation and development of energy projects. This skillset includes drawing on his finance practice experience representing commercial banks, investment banks and hedge funds in energy lending. Once completed, he further assists clients with day-to-day operational concerns.

Industries

[Energy](#)

[Finance](#)

[Infrastructure](#)

Practices

[Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage](#)

[Environmental, Social & Governance \(ESG\)](#)

[Financial Restructuring](#)

[Infrastructure Development](#)

[Finance](#)

[Oil & Gas](#)

[Private Equity](#)

[Public Lands & Resources](#)

[Water Management](#)

[Transactions](#)

[Midstream Transactions](#)

[Upstream Transactions](#)

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

Experience

Private equity-backed buyer

- acquisition of certain oil and gas assets from a publicly traded oil and gas company in the DJ Basin

Rock River Minerals, LP

- \$259 million sale of mineral and royalty interests across several counties in the Permian Basin to Freehold Royalties Ltd

Iron Orchard Upstream LLC

- negotiation of two term assignments with a drilling commitment for the acquisition of certain oil and gas assets in the Delaware Basin from a large publicly traded oil and gas producer
- acquisition of assets in the Delaware Basin from a private equity-backed portfolio company

Apache Corporation

- sale of approximately 24,000 net royalty acres across several counties in the Midland Basin

Kinder Morgan, Inc.

- negotiation on a pore space lease of 10,800 acres near the Houston Ship Channel from TGS Cedar Port Partners, LP to develop CO2 sequestration solutions for nearby sources of emissions as Kinder Morgan expands its carbon management and storage business unit
- \$7.15 billion sale of El Paso's exploration and production business unit which includes assets in the Eagle Ford Shale, Permian Basin, Haynesville Shale, Black Warrior Basin, Uintah Basin, Raton Basin, Powder River Basin, and the Gulf of Mexico n/k/a Gulf of America, as well as in Egypt and Brazil

King Ranch, Inc.

- negotiation of a pore space lease and surface use agreement with Oxy Low Carbon Ventures covering approximately 106,000 acres for the development of an industrial scale direct air capture carbon sequestration project in Kleberg County, Texas

Talos Low Carbon Solutions LLC

- pore space lease of a Jefferson County, Texas carbon storage site located near Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas and development of over 40,000 gross acres located offshore in Texas state waters in the Gulf of Mexico n/k/a Gulf of America for carbon sequestration. Bracewell's engagement includes advice with respect to lease negotiations, land rights, Code Section 45Q

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credits, environmental credits and corporate advice with respect to its joint venture with a carbon capture and storage project development and finance company.

- pore space lease with various landowners in Southeast Louisiana in connection with the Harvest Bend Carbon Capture and Sequestration project between Talos and Storegga LLC
- pore space lease and surface use agreement with the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and Howard Energy Partners to pursue carbon capture and sequestration opportunities at the Port of Corpus Christi in the Coastal Bend Carbon Management Partnership project

Fortune 500 O&G operator

- carbon sequestration project in the Permian Basin involving analysis of land rights on approximately 25,000 acres and drafting pore space lease forms for the various land rights needed from land owners for the project

Beacon Offshore Energy Development LLC

- series of transactions involving the offshore gathering and transportation of oil and natural gas, as well as onshore processing of natural gas, in connection with various oil and gas developments in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico n/k/a Gulf of America

Private equity-backed company

- \$120 million acquisition of a package of assets in the Permian Basin from various sellers ranging from upstream companies to individuals
- acquisition of producing properties in the Midland Basin from Occidental Permian Ltd and various affiliates

Private equity-backed buyer

- \$240.55 million acquisition of producing properties on lands owned by the State of Texas and overseen by the Board for Lease of University Lands in the Southern Midland Basin from EP Energy

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

- as administrative agent for the first lien lender group in the Alta Mesa Chapter 11 bankruptcy case

Eni Petroleum US LLC

- acquisition of 30 percent interest and a follow-on deal for remaining 70 percent and operatorship of the Oooguruk oil field in Alaska from Caelus Natural Resources Alaska, LLC

Independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company

- sale of substantially all of its Gulf of Mexico n/k/a Gulf of America assets to Fieldwood Energy LLC for over \$700 million
- acquisition of Clayton Williams Energy, Inc. for \$2.7 billion in stock and cash
- exchange of approximately 25,000 net acres in the DJ Basin with PDC Energy for \$270 million

Three Rivers Operating Company III LLC

- sale of 59,000 net acres in the Delaware Basin for an undisclosed cash consideration to Admiral Permian Resources, LLC and in connection with all acquisitions and divestitures of oil and gas assets

Noble Energy, Inc.

- sale of 30,200 net acres in the DJ Basin in Weld County, Colorado to SRC Energy Inc. for \$608 million

Parsley Energy Inc.

- \$2.8 billion acquisition of certain entities holding undeveloped acreage and producing oil and gas properties in the core of the Midland Basin from Double Eagle Energy Permian LLC and certain of its affiliates consisting of approximately \$1.4 billion in cash and approximately 39.8 million units of Parsley Energy

Eni S.p.A.

- multiple divestitures of its producing assets in the Gulf of Mexico n/k/a Gulf of America
- \$4.83 billion acquisition of Dominion's OCS Gulf of Mexico n/k/a Gulf of America assets

Tall City Exploration LLC

- agreement with Moss Creek Resources, LLC to sell its Howard and Borden county assets in Texas for \$803 million

SWEPI LP (a unit of Royal Dutch Shell plc)

- \$1.9 billion acquisition from Chesapeake Energy Corporation of approximately 618,000 net acres of oil and gas properties in the Southern Delaware region of the Permian Basin

Credentials

Education

- The University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 1993
- The University of Texas at Austin, B.B.A., 1990, *with honors*

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Affiliations

- State Bar of Texas, Oil and Gas Section
- Institute for Energy Law, Executive Committee
- The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law
- Texas Journal of Oil, Gas and Energy Law, Board of Advisors
- University of Texas Energy Center, Advisory Council, Nominations Committee

Recognition

Chambers Global

- Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional), 2011 – 2025

Chambers USA

- Nationwide Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional), 2010 – 2024
- Nationwide Energy & Natural Resources, 2009

The Legal 500 United States

- Energy Transactions: Oil and Gas, 2017 – 2024
- Energy: Transactions, 2012 – 2013

American City Business Journals

- *Houston Business Journal*, Who's Who in Energy, 2013 – 2016

Delinian Limited

- *IFLR1000 Financial & Corporate and M&A Guide*, 2018 – 2024

Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC

- *Expert Guides to the World's Leading Energy and Natural Resource Lawyers*, 2013

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Energy Law, 2014 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Oil and Gas Law, 2018 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Natural Resources Law, 2019 – 2025
- Houston Lawyer of the Year, Energy Law, 2022
- Houston Lawyer of the Year, Oil and Gas Law, 2018
- Houston Lawyer of the Year, Natural Resources Law, 2025

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers in America*, Corporate & Securities and Private Equity, Especially Energy, 2024 – 2025
- *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers*, Energy Transactions, 2023 – 2025

Thomson Reuters

- *Texas Super Lawyers*, 2003 – 2005, 2013 – 2019

Law Business Research Ltd.

- *Lexology Index's Thought Leaders: USA*, Energy – Oil & Gas, 2025
- *Who's Who Legal*, Energy – Oil & Gas Global Leader, 2023
- *Who's Who Legal*, Energy – Energy Global Elite Thought Leader, 2023 – 2024

Resources

The Way Forward: A Legal and Commercial Primer on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration

Article

The Future of Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Projects

Video

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration Webinar

Video

Storage Wars: Ownership of Subsurface Salt Cavern Storage Rights

Update

Texas UIC Class VI Update: Proposed Amendments to 16 TAC Ch. 5

Update

A Line in (and Under) the Sand

Article

Publications & Speeches

- "Energizing Growth: Current and Future Trends in Deal Activity," Consero Energy General Counsel Forum, September 2024.
- "A Line In (and Under) the Sand," *Texas Bar Journal*, March 2024.
- "Pore Space Leasing and Land Issues," IEL Conference on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage, October 2023.
- "Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration Webinar," Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy Law & Business, February 2021.
- "The Way Forward: A Legal and Commercial Primer on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration," *The Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law* Volume 16:1 2021, Page 43.
- "Areas of Mutual Interest Agreements – Certain Legal Issues to Consider in Texas," *Section Report of the Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas*, Volume 41, Number 3/ Spring 2017.
- "A&D Buyside," *Oil & Gas Investor*, May 2016.
- "New Twists On An Old Structure," *Oil & Gas Investor*, August 1, 2015.
- "Coming to America: Commercial and Legal Aspects of Foreign Investment in U.S. Oil and Gas Projects," *60th Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute*, July 2014.
- "Recent Legal Developments in the Roaring Utica Shale," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, May 8, 2014.
- "Overview of Trades: Joint Exploration and Joint Venture Agreements," *Meeting of the American Association of Professional Landmen*, June 2012.