

Former Oil Co. General Counsel Joins Bracewell In Houston

By **Jessica Corso**

Law360 (September 16, 2021, 2:08 PM EDT) -- The former general counsel of oil and gas exploration firm Concho Resources Inc. has joined Bracewell LLP as a partner in Houston following the \$9.7 billion sale of Concho to ConocoPhillips earlier this year.

Bracewell announced Wednesday that Travis Counts had joined the firm as a partner in its oil and gas team, where he will focus on transactional work.

Counts was Concho's general counsel for eight years and aided the company through its acquisition by Conoco. He stayed on for a few months after that sale closed in January to help with the transition.



Travis Counts

He told Law360 that he interviewed for several positions both in-house and at law firms but was drawn to Bracewell's focus on the energy sector, where he spent his entire career.

"That's what drew me to Bracewell — the large international practice that remains focused on all aspects of the energy sector. That's a really good fit for what I want to do with my career," Counts said.

Counts will split his time with the firm between Houston and Midland, Texas, where his family lives.

Although Bracewell doesn't have a Midland office and said it had no immediate plans to open one, Counts has his own office in the city's downtown area. Midland is an important location for the Texas oil industry as it sits in the heart of the Permian Basin, America's most prolific shale play.

Prior to serving as general counsel at Concho, Counts worked in-house at Petrohawk Energy, which later became Halcon Resources Corp. He was also an attorney at Kansas-based Hinkle Law Firm LLC between 2004 and 2010. Counts is from Kansas and graduated from Tulane University Law School.

He is the 17th lateral hire to join Bracewell as a partner or senior principal this year, according to the law firm. In Texas the former leader of Thompson & Knight LLP's health care practice joined Bracewell with six other Thompson attorneys last month.

The firm has four offices in Texas, as well as a presence on both the East and West coasts and international offices in London and Dubai.

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