

# OIL & GAS, MINERALS LAW

Black McCuskey has represented producers, developers, drilling companies, service companies and financial institutions for more than 40 years. Our gas and oil lawyers are recognized locally and regionally for their knowledge of the industry. For years we were general counsel for the largest independent oil and gas producer in the eastern Ohio area, as well as representing a number of other large independent oil and gas producers. Our focus has always been on serving producers and operators. To that extent, we have served the oil and gas industry in the following capacities:

- Capital formation – including organization of business entity, securities compliance, organizational governance design, tax and investment design for capital markets, bank financing
- Leasing activities – leasehold acquisitions, title examinations and drilling opinions, identifying and preparing corrective actions, preparing joint operating agreements, farm-outs and farm-ins and assignments and reservations of interest
- Marketing activities – right of way and easement reviews and title issues, transportation agreements, gas marketing agreements
- Litigation matters – defending leases, representation on contract matters, defense of injury claims
- Business acquisitions – letters of intent, due diligence regarding leases and corporate matters, preparation and negotiation of purchase agreements and the preparation of transfer documents
- Ongoing operations – representation related to workers' compensation issues and labor and employment issues, agreements for purchase of equipment and supplies, counseling with respect to governmental regulations

Moreover, our oil and gas team has the expertise and capability to handle nearly all of the legal matters which businesses in the oil and gas industry would encounter.

More recently, we have become involved in the Utica Shale developments, as well as advising large holders of land with respect to leasing. The following attorneys are involved in our oil and gas practice area:

Randolph L. Snow  
Bruce M. Soares  
Thomas W. Connors  
Robert J. Murphy

Robert B. Preston  
James M. Wherley, Jr.  
Whitney L. Willits

