

Austin

Partner

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Austin Lee represents and counsels clients in the acquisition and divestiture of oil and gas properties, as well as a broad range of transactional and operational matters regarding a variety of projects in the energy space. Austin's experience includes providing advice to energy clients who are dealing with distressed situations, whether in the form of restructuring financial arrangements or acquiring or divesting properties. Additionally, Austin frequently represents clients on a variety of midstream and downstream energy projects, produced water and salt water disposal projects, and projects for gas storage and related energy storage facilities. Austin also represents lenders and borrowers with respect to the financing of oil and gas properties; pipeline systems and other midstream assets; and other development facilities.

Additionally, Austin has experience working in-house as upstream legal counsel at an independent exploration and production company where he was the principal legal contact for a business unit covering the Bakken Shale, Eagle Ford Shale and other areas of South Texas. He also has experience working with a major oil and natural gas exploration and production company through a secondment in one of its onshore focused business units.

Austin is ranked in *Chambers USA* for Nationwide Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional) (2021-2024), which notes that he "understands the issues and how to prioritize them. He works extremely diligently and is detail-oriented." (2023). In 2018, Austin was one of only five lawyers named by *Law360* as an Energy Rising Star, which recognizes lawyers nationwide that are under 40 years of age for accomplishments in the energy space. Prior to entering legal practice, Austin worked as an independent petroleum landman and as a certified public accountant.

Industries

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Practices

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[Midstream Transactions](#)

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[Hydrogen](#)

[Asset-Based Lending](#)

[Reserve-Based Lending](#)

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

Credentials

Education

- Tulane University, J.D., 2009, *with honors*
- Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, B.A., 2004
- Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, M.A., Professional Accounting, 2004

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Chambers Global

- Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional), 2022 – 2024

Chambers USA

- Nationwide Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional), 2021 – 2024

The Legal 500 United States

- Energy Transactions: Oil and Gas, 2023 – 2024

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Oil and Gas Law, 2021 – 2025

Hart Energy

- Oil and Gas Investor, Forty Under 40, 2018

Portfolio Media, Inc.

- *Law360*, Energy Rising Star, 2018

Lawdragon Inc.

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

The University of Texas School of Law

- *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas and Energy Law*, Chief Financial Officer, 2007 – 2009

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

No Longer a Lightweight: Promising Paths Forward for Hydrogen-Related Energy

Video

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Accelerating the Deployment of Hydrogen

Update

Storage Wars: Ownership of Subsurface Salt Cavern Storage Rights

Update

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

Update

Permian Consolidation Piques Interest in Drill-to-Earn Opportunities

Article

Publications & Speeches

- "Permian Consolidation Piques Interest in Drill-to-Earn Opportunities," *Oil & Gas Investor*, August 13, 2024.
- "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.
- "Mineral Transactions Require Careful Attention," *Oil & Gas Investor, Who's Who in Minerals*, January 2018.
- "Texas Affirms The Promise of Off-Site Drilling," *Law360*, June 2017.
- "Pooling and Unitization," *Lexis Practice Advisor*, April 2017.

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- "Adverse Possession In The Oil Patch," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, December 8, 2016.
- "'Production Sharing Agreement' Wells: Pros and Cons," *Law360*, October 21, 2016.
- "A&D Buyside," *Oil & Gas Investor*, May 2016.
- "Recent Legal Developments in the Roaring Utica Shale," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, May 8, 2014.
- "Proceed With Caution: Sabre Oil & Gas Corporation v. Gibson and Anti-Dilution Provisions," *The Texas Journal of Oil, Gas and Energy Law*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 2011-2012.