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CHARGING AHEAD

RENEWING TULANE'S LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY LAW

PEERING WARILY INTO THE RED-HOT GLOW of a Claus furnace, more than a dozen Tulane Law students could catch a glimpse of the future.

Through the roiling combustion — raging at 2,000 degrees to remove sulfur from hydrogen sulfide gas produced during the process of refining crude oil — they could see the nation's future, which is increasingly dependent upon a strategic energy policy. But they could also see the future of legal education.

Sidestepping mud puddles from a sudden spring Louisiana downpour, the students negotiated a complex maze of pipes and industrial stacks snaking across Valero Energy Corporation's thousand-acre St. Charles Refinery. Though 15 miles upriver

ABOVE: FIELD VISITS TO VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION'S ST. CHARLES REFINERY HELP TULANE LAW STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF LAWYERING IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY.

TULANE LAW SCHOOL DEAN DAVID MEYER (FAR LEFT) AND PROFESSOR HERB LARSON MEET IN MAY WITH A DELEGATION FROM BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY IN AZERBAIJAN, INCLUDING BAKU STATE LAW FACULTY DEAN AMIR ALIYEV (THIRD FROM LEFT) AND RECTOR ABEL MAHARRAMOV (FAR RIGHT).

COURTESY OF BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY



MCCULLOCHS FUEL TULANE WITH NEW ENERGY CHAIR



JIM MCCULLOCH (A&S '74, L '77) IS VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL FOR FORUM ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

AS A LAW STUDENT, Jim McCulloch (A&S '74, L '77) didn't plan on a career in energy law. He focused instead on maritime law, immersing himself in Tulane's unrivaled admiralty curriculum.

Now, the energy industry veteran, who serves as senior vice president and general counsel for Houston-based Forum Energy Technologies, has committed to help Tulane leverage its strength in maritime law to build the same profile in energy law.

In September, McCulloch and his wife, Susan, gave \$2 million to endow the McCulloch Chair in Energy Law. The gift will enable Tulane to recruit a top legal

scholar and is meant to be the lead gift in a broader campaign to raise funds to create an endowed center in the field.

"The McCullochs' gift is not only generous, but visionary," Dean David Meyer said. "The McCulloch Chair will enable us to drive new research and innovation in energy law and close the loop with Tulane's closely aligned strengths in maritime, environmental and international law."

McCulloch said he's excited about boosting a specialty area that complements Tulane's historical strengths.

"Energy law fits in extremely well with these other niches. It's another leg to the chair for Tulane to excel in," he said. "It's going to help propel the law school to more recognition and more interest from prospective students."

McCulloch said Tulane can serve both students and the industry by providing expanded academic training in a field that is increasingly vital and complex.

"Most lawyers that go

into the energy industry have to learn by doing," he said.

McCulloch's focus on maritime law as a student proved instrumental in his early career, which included work for a shipping company in Florida and a stint in the admiralty section at Phelps Dunbar. He joined Global Marine, a leading international offshore drilling contractor, as an assistant general counsel in 1983 and later spent 12 years as the company's senior vice president and general counsel.

"It was helpful to have an interest in a niche area of the law," he said. But he also gives credit for his success to skills he learned at Tulane Law School. Professors, he said, "were excellent and strongly oriented toward reasoning, analysis and the philosophy of law, which have all helped me greatly in dealing with new and emerging legal issues."

The McCullochs' daughter, Lauren (L '11), an associate in Morgan Lewis' litigation practice in Houston, shares her parents' commitment to Tulane. In law school, Lauren McCulloch was senior managing editor of the *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, received the Ray J. Forrester Award for Excellence in Constitutional Law and graduated magna cum laude.

from Tulane's Uptown New Orleans campus, the students were also experiencing Tulane Law School's newest classroom.

Thanks to a new partnership with Valero, Tulane Law students have the opportunity each semester to spend a full day roving one of the largest, most sophisticated refineries in the world. The day includes a crash course on the basic science of refining and a tour of the sprawling facility to give students a sense of the business operation, plus meetings with the refinery's manager and engineers and Valero's in-house lawyers who fly in for the occasion from the company's headquarters in San Antonio.

The goal is to give students an up-close, inside view of the role lawyers play in managing legal compliance in a dauntingly complex business enterprise. Getting students out of the classroom and into direct contact with the practice of law has been a dominant theme of curricular innovation at Tulane Law in recent years.

But the innovative field experience serves another objective as well. Combined with a host of related initiatives, the goal is also to reassert Tulane Law School's global leadership in energy law — a field of rapidly growing importance and one that is closely allied with Tulane's signature strengths in admiralty, environmental and international law.

TELLING DISASTER FOCUSED ATTENTION

When the Deepwater Horizon oil platform exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, killing 11 people and spilling millions of gallons of oil, the disaster riveted the public on what happened and why, who was responsible and what the ramifications would be for individuals, the environment and the economy.

Unsurprisingly, the search for answers quickly led to Tulane's campus, 130 miles north of the unfolding disaster. With the world's leading expertise in maritime law, and one of the country's strongest faculties in environmental and international law, Tulane Law School was tailor-made to help unravel the complex tangle of legal and policy questions surrounding the spill.

Within weeks of the disaster, Professor Martin Davies, director of Tulane's Maritime Law Center, landed on the front page of the *National Law Journal* explaining the complex interplay of admiralty statutes that would determine potential liability. White House staffers borrowed space in Weinmann Hall to meet with policymakers and stakeholders in mapping out the federal response. Professors Oliver Houck, Günther Handl and Robert Force joined colleagues from Tulane's business and science and engineering schools in organizing

HECKMAN SCHOLARSHIP TARGETS INTERNATIONAL AND MARITIME LAW

CHRIS HECKMAN, ONE OF THE top lawyers at ExxonMobil, can trace his career to a course in marine insurance with Professor Ben Yancey and a class in carriage of goods.

“I ended up doing cargo work my first job in New York,” said Heckman (L ’78). More than a decade later, he was practicing maritime and insurance law in New York City when Exxon’s general counsel needed a marine insurance specialist in the wake of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska’s Prince William Sound.

Heckman moved to Texas for that assignment. Today, he’s general counsel to ExxonMobil risk management, based at the company’s Irving headquarters and handling work around the world. It’s allowed him to fulfill his dreams of practicing both international litigation and maritime law.

“What I learned at Tulane as well as the prestige that a Tulane law degree brings with it has aided me in my career, so I feel that I should give back,” Heckman said.

He and his wife, Nancy, established The Heckman International and Maritime Law Scholarship Endowment to support students interested in fields that Tulane excels at and Heckman has found success in. Nancy Heckman, whose father was a BP engineer, shares her husband’s international interest, having grown up in Colombia and Venezuela and lived in Spain.

Chris Heckman said he came to Tulane from Minnesota for the maritime law program.

“One of the great things about the maritime law program was that the professors were practicing lawyers. It was nuts and bolts. My education at Tulane was second to none,” he said.

Heckman said that even though he works for an oil company, he isn’t strictly an energy lawyer. For instance, he might deal with contracts connected to constructing drilling rigs, offshore platforms or major plants around the world. He might handle large claims related to insuring vessels or facilities.

“One of the great things about being an in-house lawyer is you get to know your company,” he said. “It makes me a better lawyer.” The goal is to help prevent problems, not just react to them, and to help his non-lawyer clients understand legal issues that can be very complex.

COURTESY OF CHRIS HECKMAN



CHRIS HECKMAN (L ’78)
IS GENERAL COUNSEL TO
EXXONMOBIL RISK MANAGEMENT.

“ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS
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a series of lectures examining the causes and consequences of the spill that was webcast to a worldwide audience.

While it took a dramatic episode for the public to realize the imperative of addressing the expanding role of energy in the world, subsequent developments have left no doubt about the high stakes for the economy, the environment and international security.

Innovations in renewable energy, discoveries of new energy resources and adapted methods of extraction, such as fracking to tap shale gas, have created the real prospect of American energy independence, with potentially seismic implications for the world economy and the “re-shoring” of manufacturing and other jobs. They also have posed new questions about the potential impact on the environment and stirred substantial legal and policy debates requiring the expertise of lawyers.

FROM THE GULF COAST TO THE CASPIAN SEA

Beyond its domestic importance, energy is also increasingly central to geopolitics and international security, tapping Tulane’s distinctive expertise in comparative and international law.

The surprise discovery of massive, underwater gas fields off the coast of Israel has suddenly given Israel the prospect of energy independence but also fueled legal disputes with its neighbors over maritime rights to the find.

In August, Tulane University hosted the inaugural U.S.-Israel Energy Summit, a two-day gathering of leading academic, government and industry leaders from across Israel, Louisiana and Texas aimed at finding solutions to future energy and environmental challenges through collaboration.

“When energy industry leaders, environmental scientists and law and business faculty collaborate like they did at



COURTESY OF RANDY EBNER

RANDY EBNER (L '80) IS EXXONMOBIL'S ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL FOR COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE.

EBNERS' GIFT ADVANCES ENERGY LAW STUDY

RANDY EBNER (L '80) intended to practice maritime law. But a job interview at Tulane Law School set in motion a career path that has led him to the highest levels of ExxonMobil's legal team.

To make sure that Tulane Law students understand the importance as well as the complexities of law issues that are inherently part of the global energy business, Ebner and his wife, Ricki, have established The Ebner Family Endowment for Energy Law to support, faculty, students and programs related to the field.

The gift significantly advances Tulane's efforts to expand its energy law program through faculty teaching and research, additional advanced-level courses, international partnerships and student field experiences at energy-related facilities.

"The education I received at Tulane Law School has opened up opportunities I could never have imagined when I matriculated as a 1L," said Ebner, ExxonMobil's assistant general counsel for compliance and corporate, based in Irving, Texas.

"IT'S IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY TO THE WORLD ECONOMY."

"It's important for students to understand the importance of energy to the world economy," he said.

The legal aspects of the energy business from the wellhead to the gasoline pump are many and touch just about every field of law practice. The impact of energy can be very local: try going without power for days in the aftermath of a hurricane. But it's also global: energy supply and demand for resources impact economies and geopolitics worldwide.

"One of the advantages of Tulane Law School is its global reach," said Ebner, a member of the Dean's Advisory Board. He hopes to help the law school continue building on that unique capability.

Ebner joined Exxon's law department in the New Orleans litigation office and over the years has taken on increased responsibility: defending oil and gas royalty and antitrust lawsuits; handling legal work related to the merger of Exxon and Mobil; coordinating commercial law issues for the company's chemical business; and overseeing the legal side of the rapidly expanding global liquefied natural gas business.

Now, he and his law team serve as the company's primary counsel advising on corporate law and compliance-related matters and processes.

"WHEN ENERGY INDUSTRY LEADERS, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS AND LAW AND BUSINESS FACULTY COLLABORATE ... WHEN THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SUBJECTS ARE CROSSED, GREAT THINGS HAPPEN."

—TULANE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT MIKE FITTS, JUDGE RENE H. HIMEL PROFESSOR OF LAW

this week's summit, when the boundaries between schools and subjects are crossed, great things happen," said Tulane University President Mike Fitts, who is also the Judge Rene Himel Professor of Law. "We not only create stronger institutions that answer critics' demands that higher education demonstrate its relevance in a society yearning for solutions, we help create a new and better world."

When the U.S. State Department sought to create a better world in the strategically important Caspian Sea region, it also turned to Tulane. Seeking to bolster the rule of law in Azerbaijan, a key U.S. ally squeezed between Iran and Russia, the State Department asked Tulane Law School to advise the country's leading law

school on the creation of a new program in energy and maritime law.

For the past two years, Tulane law faculty have traveled to Azerbaijan each May to provide intensive short courses in energy, environmental and maritime law and to host the country's first-ever CLE programs. Supported by scholarships funded by the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, two law faculty from Baku State University spent last year studying in Tulane's LLM program.

Nishat Rahimov, who immersed himself in Tulane's admiralty courses, will lead Baku State's new advanced-degree program in admiralty and energy law upon his return from New Orleans.

Zumrud Musaeva, a Baku State colleague who focused on energy and environmental law during her time at Tulane, said learning U.S. culture, history and method of legal education will enhance what she's able to share in the classroom.

"We can implement some deep and important information about maritime and energy law," she said. "We can combine our knowledge with Azerbaijan law and transmit our knowledge to students."

Tulane's outreach to the Caspian Sea region, initially supported through funding from the State Department and the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative, was extended in 2014 through support from Chevron and ExxonMobil.

For U.S. companies seeking to do business in developing regions of the world, it's critical to ensure that qualified lawyers and judges are available to protect the rule of law. For Tulane, it's another chance to share its unique expertise abroad and to deepen the international diversity of its community at home.

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ENERGY LAW AT TULANE

A \$2-million gift in September to endow a new chair dedicated to energy law will position Tulane Law to seize a leadership position in the field in the years ahead. The generous gift came from Jim McCulloch (A&S '74, L '77) and his wife, Susan, of Houston, Texas. (Their daughter, Lauren, is a 2011 Tulane Law School graduate.)

Combined with other recent gifts to endow scholarships and faculty research relating to energy law, the McCullochs' gift leads off a campaign to raise additional

RIGHT: THE FLAME TOWERS HOTEL-OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE AZERBAIJAN CAPITAL OF BAKU SYMBOLIZES THE ANCIENT CITY'S TRANSFORMATION INTO A MODERN OIL AND GAS BOOM TOWN. IT WAS ALSO THE SITE OF TULANE LAW'S SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGING ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND MARITIME LAW.



NISHAT RAHIMOV AND ZUMRUD MUSAEVA WERE THE FIRST BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBERS TO PURSUE TULANE LLM DEGREES THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH AZERBAIJAN FOCUSED ON ENERGY LAW.



“ENERGY LAW WILL GROW ONLY MORE IMPORTANT IN THE YEARS TO COME, AND TULANE HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD.”

—TULANE LAW SCHOOL DEAN DAVID MEYER

THE SCIENCE LESSON DURING STUDENTS’ FIELD VISIT TO VALERO’S ST. CHARLES REFINERY INCLUDES A LOOK AT THE BYPRODUCTS OF TURNING CRUDE OIL INTO FUEL.

funds to create an endowed center in energy law on par with Tulane’s world-leading Maritime Law Center and Eason-Weinmann Center in Comparative and International Law.

Tulane Law alumni already are shaping the future of energy law and policy, as industry leaders, environmental watchdogs and governmental policymakers.

“Energy law will grow only more important in the years to come, and Tulane has a unique opportunity to lead,” Dean David Meyer said.

“We have a chance to bring faculty expertise to bear in solving society’s most important challenges and to ensure that Tulane graduates continue to lead for generations to come.”



FIELD VISIT REAPS RESULTS

“The tour of Valero’s St. Charles Refinery was one of the highlights of my time as an LLM student at Tulane. In particular, the talk given by Valero’s Deputy General Counsel [Rich Walsh] about his work in the communities surrounding the refineries transformed my thinking about what it means to be an energy lawyer. During my interview with Kelly, Hart & Pitre, a cutting-edge energy and environmental law firm in New Orleans, I was able to draw on my Valero experience to answer [partner] Loulan Pitre’s most difficult question.”

—D’Ann Penner, LLM student and Kelly, Hart & Pitre associate

VALERO TOUR

UP-CLOSE AT VALERO REFINERY COMPLEX, STUDENTS GAIN INSIGHT ON INDUSTRY LAWYERING

ENSURING REGULATORY COMPLIANCE is not only about knowing where to look up the relevant provisions in the Code of Federal Regulation. It also requires a deep understanding of the business operation of a regulated industry at the ground level.

That's part of what Tulane Law School students learn during full-day field visits to Valero Energy Corporation's St. Charles Refinery, one of the world's largest and most sophisticated plants of its kind, located 15 miles up the Mississippi River from New Orleans in Norco, Louisiana.

On Tulane students' trips during the fall and spring semesters, Valero attorneys and engineers provide up-close tours exploring the complexity of legal compliance in the energy industry. After a briefing on the refining process and instruction on plant safety, students are outfitted with Nomex fire-retardant suits, hard hats, safety glasses, ear plugs and breathing monitors, then walk through the refinery's maze of equipment to see components such as the coker, catalytic cracking unit, desalter water feed drum and 2,000-degree Claus furnace, where sulfur is removed from the hydrogen sulfide gas that the crude oil refining process produces.

"You have to understand the science before you can understand the law," said Valero Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Rich Walsh, who was instrumental in forging



MARIA KALOUSHI-TATUM (L '16) CALLED THE VALERO TOUR "INDISPENSABLE" FOR STUDENTS WISHING TO WORK IN ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OR THE ENERGY INDUSTRY.

the educational partnership between Valero and Tulane.

Later, students hear from engineers and the company's in-house lawyers, who fly in from Valero's San Antonio headquarters, and learn that ensuring compliance with the welter of environmental, safety, occupational and even homeland-security



ANDRE MARQUETTE, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING MANAGER AT VALERO'S ST. CHARLES REFINERY, EXPLAINS THE PLANT'S SOPHISTICATED MONITORING SYSTEM TO TULANE LAW STUDENTS.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACKSON HILL

FALL 2014 TULANE LAWYER



Gillian Saltz, now a 3L student, worked during summer 2014 at Valero Energy Corporation's legal department in San Antonio.

regulations that govern the plant requires an ongoing dialogue between the company's managers and lawyers and governmental regulators.

"I don't get asked an easy question ever," said Managing Counsel Elizabeth Bourbon.

Dean David Meyer, who sat in on the Valero field visits in March, said the experience gives students a lesson not

typically taught in law school.

"Students see that closely understanding a client's business operation and goals is as essential as understanding the law," Meyer said. "Both are required to be an effective lawyer."

The addition to the law school's expanding array of experiential learning opportunities already has proved beneficial.

Student Maria Kalousi-Tatum, who spent a day at the Valero facility during her 1L year, called the experience "indispensable for all students wishing to work for environmental regulatory agencies or the energy industry as a whole."

Kalousi-Tatum, who went on to intern for the New York City environmental protection department during the summer of 2014, said the visit changed some of her preconceived notions about the industry and helped her "understand that we're all part of the environment and ... we can all work together to improve it."

Mark Spansel (L '78), a partner at Adams & Reese in New Orleans who serves as Valero's outside counsel and spoke to students during the visit, said they can "get an upfront, close view of opportunities in the law in such a critical industry."

One Tulane student, Gillian Saltz, now a 3L from California, got a still-closer view: as a result of the new partnership, she landed a summer 2014 job working in Valero's legal department in San Antonio.

"It absolutely opened my eyes to the role lawyers play in the energy industry," Saltz said afterward. "They were involved in every aspect of the refining process, from transporting the crude to the refinery to delivering their product to the distributors and all the contracts, regulations and litigation in between. It truly is amazing to see the machine in action, and ... they made sure I was involved with any department I was interested in: environmental and regulation, litigation, employment and transactional."

"YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE SCIENCE BEFORE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE LAW." —VALERO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL RICH WALSH



TULANE STUDENTS SUCH AS RAMON LANTIGUA (LLM '13) HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL INTERACTION WITH VALERO'S LEGAL TEAM, INCLUDING SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL RICH WALSH.

