

# Managing Oil and Gas Development *in Mississippi*

**March 27–28,  
2014**

*Natchez Grand Hotel  
Natchez, Mississippi*





## Sponsors



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## March 27

8:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00 Economic Overview of the Oil and Gas Industry in Mississippi  
*Judith Phillips, Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development*

10:00 Transportation Issues and Problem Solving  
*Jeff Ely, Mississippi Department of Transportation and  
Jay Estes, Allen Engineering and Science*

10:45 Break

11:00 Managing Environmental and Infrastructure Challenges, Water Resources, and Safety Strategies  
*Francis Reilly, LMI*

12:00 Lunch

## *Afternoon Sessions*

1:00 New Technologies of Oil and Gas Drilling  
*Tom Williams, Senior Advisor, Environmentally Friendly Drilling Program*

2:30 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality—Current Regulations and Strategies  
*Richard Harrell, Director of Pollution Control with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality*

3:15 Break

3:30 Current status of the local industry  
Mississippi Industry Panel  
*Selected by members of Governor's Energy Task Force*

Evening Reception  
Natchez Grand Hotel

## March 28

- 8:45 Best Management Practices in Oil and Gas Leasing, Mineral Rights and Regulations across the U.S.  
*Matt Samelson, Attorney, Consultant for University of Colorado's Intermountain Oil and Gas Best Management Practices Project*
- 9:30 Planning for Energy Growth—Workforce Development Strategies and Opportunities  
*Dr. Steve Bishop, Southwest Mississippi Community College*
- 10:00 Managing Oil and Gas Leasing and Mineral Rights in Mississippi and Other States  
*James Isonhood, Mississippi Attorney General's Office*
- 11:30 Closing Remarks  
*Attorney General Jim Hood*
- 12:00 Adjourn

## Presenters

### Judith Phillips

*Research Analyst, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University*

Judith's work at the John C. Stennis Institute of Government began more than 15 years ago when she moved from her position as the director of the Small Business Development Initiative at the Office of External Affairs in the College of Business & Industry at Mississippi State University. She completed her M.B.A. and doctoral studies at Mississippi State University's College of Business, with an emphasis on Marketing and minors in Statistics and Economics. Prior to coming to Mississippi State University, Phillips operated multiple small businesses and was the national sales manager for Bart Manufacturing Company in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her credentials include seven years of teaching experience in Statistics, Economics, Marketing Management, Consumer Behavior, International Marketing, Retail Management, and Business Communications at Mississippi State University, and she has taught Business Law and Real Estate Law at regional community colleges.

Phillips has conducted extensive research on a diverse range of issues that impact the State of Mississippi related to education, poverty, housing, workforce training, economic development, and public policy. Her writings include a series of publications titled *An Overview for Decision-Makers* designed to provide objective input into the policy decision-making process in the state of Mississippi. These studies include: Mississippi's Long-term Health Care Industry; The Tobacco and Grocery Sales Tax in Mississippi; Workforce and Low-income Housing in Mississippi; Housing Strategies for Mississippi Post-Katrina; Housing Needs in Mississippi; The Economic Impact of Katrina Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, and Year 4; Hurricane Katrina New Market Tax Credit Allocations; The Inventory Tax and Mississippi's Business Tax Climate; The Economic Impact of the Mississippi Furniture Industry and Job Tax Credits for Furniture Industry Employees; Maximizing the Economic Benefit of a Proposed Coal Gasification Facility in Kemper County; HOME Consortiums in Mississippi; Mississippi School Districts: Revenues and Expenditures 2007–2008; The Economic Impact of the Community Development Foundation in Tupelo, Mississippi; An Economic Impact and Market Analysis of the Cotton Mill Marketplace Development in Starkville, Mississippi; Analysis of Revenues Associated with Alcoholic Beverages in Mississippi; Obesity and Sugar-Sweetened Beverages; A Cultural Heritage Tourism Strategy for the Mississippi Delta; The Revitalization of the Historic African American Business District in Meridian, Mississippi; and Mississippi Budget Appropriations 1999 through 2012. Phillips served as a member of the board for the Mississippi Legislature's Delta Revitalization Task Force and was the project director at the Stennis Institute for the Kellogg Foundation's Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative. In her role establishing the Civic Capacity Development Initiative at the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, she engaged multiple communities across the state of Mississippi in comprehensive strategic planning; to implement these strategic plans, Phillips has written and secured in excess of \$42 million of grant funding for non-profit organizations and government entities across the state of Mississippi.



### Jeff Ely

*State Planning Engineer, Mississippi Department of Transportation*

Jeff Ely, P.E., received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University in 2002 and immediately began work for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in the Planning Division. After 10 years in planning, he was appointed to the position of MDOT's State Planning Engineer, where he oversees multimodal transportation planning activities for the department.

Mr. Ely is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Mississippi Engineering Society, and AASHTO's Standing Committee on Planning. He currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Industry Advisory Council for the Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation.



**Jay C. Estes, AICP**

*Senior Principal Planner, Chief Operating Officer, Allen Engineering and Science, Inc.*

Mr. Estes is a senior planner and chief operating officer with Allen Engineering and Science, Inc. He has over 20 years' experience in urban planning and community development in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Estes has extensive experience in grant research, writing, and administration and has successfully applied for grants in the areas of natural resources, housing, Brownfields assessment, homeland security, and community infrastructure. Mr. Estes is currently involved in a variety of projects throughout the Gulf South, including development of natural hazard mitigation plans, watershed management plans, projects related to stormwater and water quality management, and Brownfields assessment and redevelopment. Mr. Estes has a passion for working with local governments to craft public policy that allows for innovation

in development and redevelopment within cities and counties while preserving and protecting natural resources of intrinsic value. He is also experienced in interpreting existing public policy as it applies to development and redevelopment of new communities and mixed-use developments.

**Francis Reilly**

Mr. Reilly is a senior consultant and research fellow at LMI, where he is currently serving as a subject matter expert to U.S. Customs & Border Protection regarding removal and control of invasive species such as Carrizo cane and salt cedar that obscure operational control of border patrol agents and pose huge water availability problems in the arid Southwest. His water interests were brought to bear in developing a water footprinting methodology to meet the Army Environmental Policy Institute's needs and leading a project, "Quantifying the Army Supply Chain Water Footprint." Recently he has been working with DoD to develop market-based approaches to environmental stewardship, including implementing ecosystem services on military buffer lands, nutrient trading, wetlands, and conservation banking. He helped develop low-impact development policy for the U.S. Army and subsequently DoD and has provided support to the U.S. Army Water Interest Workgroup. He is also the executive director for the Watersheds and Wetlands Work Group, a professional organization of resource managers, environmental regulators, and academicians with interests in wetlands and integrated wetland and watersheds management and regulatory science.

Mr. Reilly came to LMI from his own business, The Reilly Group. There, he was providing consulting services to government clients (including the Army Corps of Engineers, Customs and Border Protection, National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Delaware, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Fortune 100 companies (including Chevron and General Electric), and educational institutions (including Adelphi University and Virginia Tech). His assignments have included curriculum and program development, environmental risk assessment, permitting support, preparation of comments on proposed rule-making, and technical and logistical support services.





### **Thomas E. Williams**

Tom Williams serves as a senior advisor to the Environmentally Friendly Drilling Program, an organization he co-founded in 2005 while working as a vice president at Noble Corporation. He has been in the energy business for over 30 years as an operator and later in his career in the management and commercialization of new energy technologies. He held senior executive positions at the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Interior during the Bush Administration from 1989 to 1993. Tom has continued to be involved in a variety of organizations and activities developing and applying technologies for the oil and gas industry and research through fostering cooperation between the government and private sector. He is well known in the industry and has authored numerous energy publications, presentations, and articles and has served on a number of energy organizations, associations, and public and privately held corporations.



### **Matt Samelson**

Matt Samelson is an attorney working with the Getches-Wilkinson Center for the Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado. Matt is currently conducting a comparative law research project of select federal, state, and local regulations for major shale oil and gas plays across the nations, including Marcellus, Eagle Ford, Niobrara, Bakken, and Piceance. The project is part of a federal grant administered by the Environmentally Friendly Drilling System Technology Integration Program. He is also the director of special projects for the Donnell-Kay Foundation, which engages in K-12 education policy in Colorado. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado Law School and the University of Colorado School of Public Affairs.



### **James Isonhood, Esq.**

James H. (Jimmy) Isonhood is a special assistant attorney general for the State of Mississippi assigned to represent the Mississippi Transportation Commission. Mr. Isonhood received his Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering from Mississippi State University in 1975. He worked as a petroleum engineer for 12 years before attending law school. During his tenure as an engineer, Jimmy attained the certification as a Registered Professional Engineer in Mississippi and Louisiana. He graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from Mississippi College School of Law in 1990. Mr. Isonhood practiced as a sole practitioner before accepting the position that he now holds in July 2000. His work for the MTC includes representation of the Maintenance Division, Construction Division, Environmental Division, and Asset Management Division, as well as two of the State Districts. Mr. Isonhood has published in the

Mississippi Oil and Gas Law Journal and has presented papers at the NTRB, the AASHTO subcommittee on right of way and the National Association of Highway Beautification Agencies (NAHBA). He is the current chairman of the TRB subcommittee on eminent domain and a former member of the NAHBA board. Jimmy is married to Judy Isonhood and has three children, Jamie, Julie, and Jaclyn.





## **Jim Hood**

*Mississippi Attorney General*

Jim Hood has served as attorney general of Mississippi since 2004. Prior to being elected as attorney general, he served as a law clerk at the Mississippi Supreme Court and as a special assistant attorney general. In 1995, he was elected the district attorney for seven counties in North Mississippi. During his eight years as district attorney, he tried more than 100 jury trials. He has personally prosecuted several historical cases, including the 2005 trial for the leader of the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers in a case that was previously depicted in the movie “Mississippi Burning.”

As the father of three, General Hood has been a passionate champion for protecting Mississippi’s children from the dangers brought by technology, particularly the Internet and cellular telephones. Mississippi’s Cyber Crime Fusion Center and statewide Internet Crimes Against Children task force have helped rescue child victims of predators, prevented children from being abused and exploited, and deterred cyberbullying.

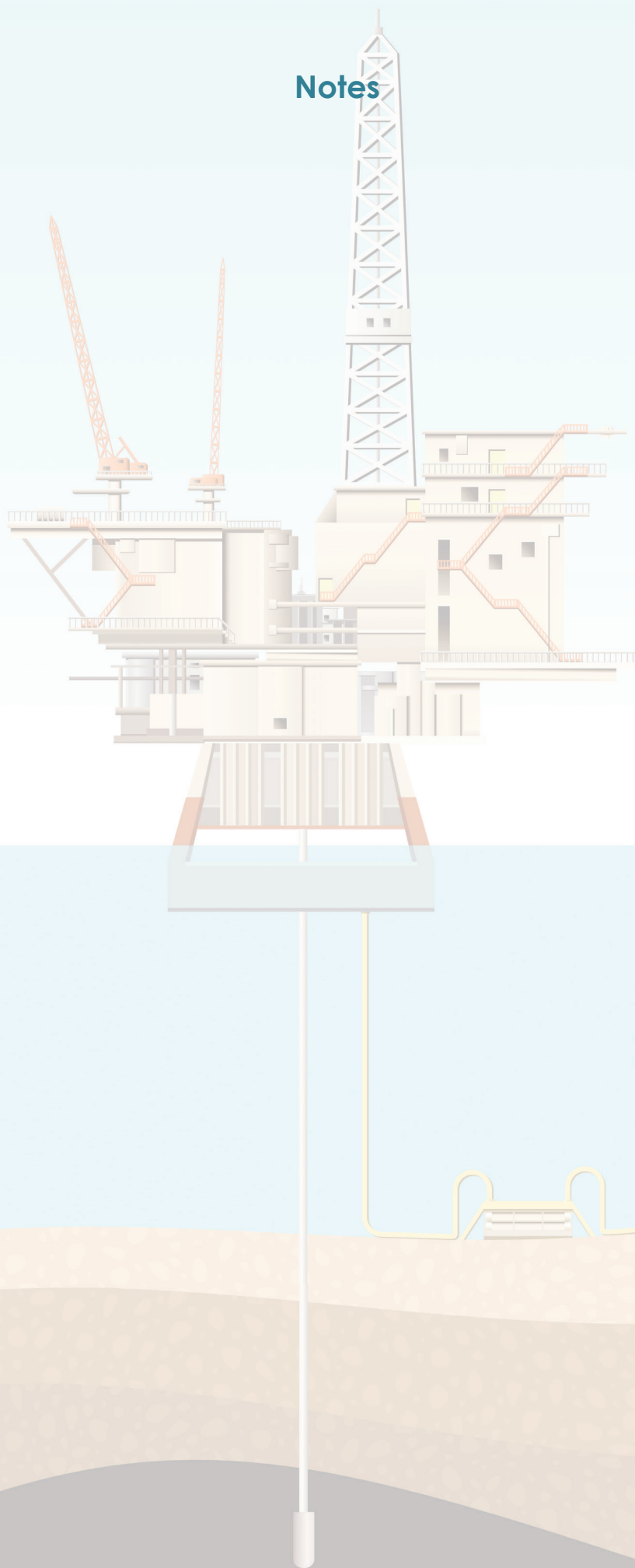
Attorney General Hood has led Mississippi initiatives to prevent workplace and school violence, established a dedicated domestic violence unit, and created a statewide restraining order registry. General Hood has developed several other unique units in his office, including the Deadbeat Parent Child Support Prosecution Unit, the Vulnerable Adults Unit, the Victims Compensation Unit, the Insurance Fraud Unit, and the Intellectual Property Theft Task Force.

General Hood has also forged new strategies and programs to help and educate consumers. The Consumer Protection Division leads statewide efforts to investigate and prosecute consumer frauds and scams, identity theft, home repair fraud, price gouging, and dangerous counterfeit products. General Hood consistently works to strengthen laws to protect consumers from these crimes.

He serves on the board of directors for Jason Foundation, which is dedicated to preventing teen suicide, the National Association of Model State Drug Laws, and as a non-regional director for the National White Collar Crime Center (NW 3C). In addition, Attorney General Hood serves as president-elect for the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), as co-chairman for the Intellectual Property Theft Committee, and is a member of several NAAG committees.

Attorney General Hood is a native of Chickasaw County in North Mississippi—a place he calls “God’s Country.” He is an avid outdoorsman and hunter. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children: Rebecca, Matthew, and Annabelle Leigh.

# Notes





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Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. GARY B. JACKSON, Director (150-03-14)