This publication is intended to help private landowners who need assistance when negotiating a mineral lease (primarily oil and gas) on their property. Listed below is a brief listing of legal services that are available for hire as well as some informational type of resources that are available at little or no cost (i.e. through the Internet, etc.)

The first part of this document contains a listing of the names of attorneys and law firms that can provide legal services as it pertains to oil and gas laws. The attorneys were contacted and asked if they were currently actively representing landowners in oil and gas matters.

This list is merely provided as a starting point for landowners searching for legal counsel relating to oil and gas leasing. Negotiating a mineral lease that truly protects the interests of a landowner involves both legal and technical knowledge of the crude oil and natural gas industry in Michigan. Therefore, in selecting legal counsel, landowners may wish to verify that the potential law firm has experience in working with landowners concerning oil and gas leasing (e.g. ask for references of previous landowner clients that they helped with negotiating an oil & gas lease). Landowners may also wish to ask whether said legal counsel is currently representing or on retainer to any of the oil and gas companies seeking to contract with the landowners in the area.

The second part of this document contains a listing of informational resources available at little or no charge (i.e. through the Internet, MSU Extension, etc.) that landowners may wish to consult to see if any of these sources can provide answers to their questions about oil and gas leasing.

It’s All in the Lease Language …

MSU Extension advises landowners that a lease to extract minerals from underneath your land is a legally binding document. Be sure you know what the lease language really means! When negotiating a lease, a landowner should be sure to focus on more items (e.g. damage clauses, etc.) than just the monetary rewards (i.e. royalty and per acre lease payments) that they will receive. Therefore, be sure you completely understand everything contained in the lease (and its consequences) before signing it. If in doubt, a landowner may wish to seek legal counsel or do further research on their own. Hopefully, the information provided here can help landowners to “wade through” the often confusing and arduous process of leasing.

* These names are being provided as a public service. MSU Extension makes no claims as to the completeness of this listing nor is MSU Extension endorsing any of the individuals or law firms listed below. Furthermore, any legal firm that can document that their organization provides such legal services to landowners can ask to be added to this list (see mailing address above).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address 1</th>
<th>Address 2</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. David L. Leonardson</td>
<td>114 E. Main Street</td>
<td>Susan Hlywa Topp, P.L.C.</td>
<td>Gaylord, MI 49735</td>
<td>989-731-4014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefan J. Scholl, P.C.</td>
<td>3280 Woods Way, Ste #4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Traverse City, MI 49686</td>
<td>231-946-8630</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Jocks</td>
<td>Olson &amp; Bzdok, P.C.</td>
<td>Mr. Peter J. Zirnhelt, P.C.</td>
<td>Traverse City, MI 49684</td>
<td>231-946-8630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Quandt</td>
<td>Zimmerman, Kuhn, Darling, Boyd, Quandt &amp; Phelps PLC</td>
<td>John Lynch</td>
<td>Lynch Gallagher</td>
<td>555 North Main St. P. O. Box 1279</td>
<td>517-803-4361</td>
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<tr>
<td>David McCurdy, Michael Figliomeni &amp; Nathan Piwowarski</td>
<td>McCurdy Wotila &amp; Porteous, P.C.</td>
<td>David Porteous</td>
<td>McCurdy Wotila &amp; Porteous P.C.</td>
<td>4393 220th Avenue</td>
<td>231-832-3231</td>
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<td></td>
<td>120 W. Harris Street</td>
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<td>Reed City, MI 49677</td>
<td>231-832-3231</td>
<td>Fax: 231-832-3341</td>
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<td>Cadillac, MI 49601</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Pehrson PC</td>
<td>409 West Ludington Ave.</td>
<td>Doug Springstead</td>
<td>Springstead Law Offices, PC</td>
<td>214 Washington St.</td>
<td>231-873-4022</td>
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<td>Ludington, MI</td>
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<td>Hart, MI 49420</td>
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<td>231-843-3709</td>
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<td>Mr. Henry Knier, Jr.</td>
<td>Smith, Martin, Powers &amp; Knier, P.C.</td>
<td>Trent C. Hilding, ESQ</td>
<td>Edmore, MI 48829</td>
<td>989-427-3436</td>
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<td></td>
<td>900 Washington Ave., P. O. Box 219</td>
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<td>Bay City, MI 48707-0219</td>
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<td>989-892-3924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Offices of Lawrence M. Elkus, Prof. Corporation</td>
<td>30833 Northwestern Highway, Ste 204</td>
<td>David G. Moore</td>
<td>403 South Superior St.</td>
<td>Albion, MI 49224-0660</td>
<td>517-629-5576</td>
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<td>Farmington Hills, MI 48334</td>
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<td>248-539-3232</td>
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<td>Fax: 248-53-9191</td>
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</tbody>
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Legal Services (cont.)

Michael C. Haines
Or John M. DeVries
Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones, PLC
900 Monroe Avenue, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 632-8000

John H. Norris
Dickinson Wright PLLC
38525 Woodward Avenue, Ste. 2000
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 433-7200

Aaron Bowren
400 E. 8th St.
Traverse City, Michigan 49684
231-946-8630

Scott A. Storey
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.
313 South Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933

Jonathan J. Siebers | Attorney
Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge
100 Monroe Center NW| Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2802
Phone 616-774-8000

Andy Richards
Smith-Bovill PC
140 West Tuscola Street, Suite B
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
989-652-9923

Informational Resources

Consultants (not attorneys)

Lynn Gould
Clare, MI
989-386-3594

On the Internet…

Pennsylvania State Natural Gas
Oil and Gas Leases
National Association of Royalty Owners
Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (industry oriented)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Gas, Oil and Minerals
Michigan Oil and Gas Association (O&G industry news)

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3311_4111---,00.html
http://www.michiganoilandgasassociation.org/

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