



# ENERGY CENTER

The Center for Global Energy,  
International Arbitration and  
Environmental Law

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW

## April 2014 Newsletter



### Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the April 2014 issue of the *Energy Center Newsletter!*

As many of you know, the Energy Center has always had the personality of a startup - small but ambitious, bootstrapping but with an eye toward bigger things. Now the bigger things are finally here. We've hit a takeoff point. We're producing more research, more student opportunities, and more programming than ever before - and we're poised for rapid growth. We hope that you will take a moment to review our latest activities and that you'll continue to support us as we move forward into what promises to be an exciting time.

Best wishes,  
Melinda E. Taylor



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### This Spring at the Energy Center

This spring, the [Energy Center](#) at the [University of Texas School of Law](#) sponsored two Distinguished Speaker Lectures, a cleantech forum, two conferences, and a workshop on water conservation and reuse. It released two reports on water resources in Texas and sponsored a team of eight UT Law students in the Vis Arbitral Moot in Vienna. The Energy Center Blog featured over a dozen new posts, and several national and state media outlets reached out to Energy Center faculty for expert opinions. The Energy Center offered over two dozen courses on energy law, environmental law, and arbitration/dispute resolution in the Spring 2014 semester. It also welcomed five new advisory board members and a new program coordinator.

### Energy Center Advisory Board and Staff

#### Energy Center Welcomes Five New Advisory Board Members and a New Program Coordinator

**April 2014** The Energy Center welcomed five new advisory board members: [Lyn Clancy](#) '96, [Steve DeWolf](#) '78, [Larry Nettles](#) '81, [Jaime Spellings](#) '86, and [Rod Wetsel](#) '77 and a new program coordinator, [Mauricio Pajon](#). Mauricio holds a PhD in history from UT-Austin.

### Energy Center Events

#### Spring 2014 Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series

As part of our ongoing Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series, the Energy Center held two events. The first pulled together an interdisciplinary team to discuss [current climate policy](#). The second was on [drought in Central Texas](#) and featured Christy Muse of the Hill Country Alliance as well as one of the Center's newest board members, Lyn Clancy of the Lower Colorado River Authority.

#### Cleantech Forum

**April 2014** Austin has repeatedly ranked as one of the best cities for cleantech, and in April, the Energy Center partnered with the [Austin Technology Incubator](#) to sponsor a forum with local experts and business leaders about the tools available to get more companies to contribute to a lower carbon economy and reduce climate change through their technology and services. [\(read more ...\)](#)

#### 2014 Electricity Conference

**April 2014** The 4th Annual Austin Electricity Conference, which the Energy Center co-sponsored with the [McCombs School of Business](#), the [Cockrell School of Engineering](#), and the [Energy Institute](#), convened a diverse group of experts from across the country for a candid, invitation-only conclave that explored the challenges to traditional modes of generating and delivering electricity posed by innovation in the electricity industry. [\(read more ...\)](#)

#### Conference on the Water-Energy Nexus

**March 2014** The Energy Center teamed with the [Texas Environmental Law Journal](#) to sponsor a conference on the policy and legal connections between Texas' water and energy resources. Panel discussions analyzed drought and what it means for energy production, challenges and opportunities in groundwater desalination, and lessons that the water sector can learn from energy. [\(read more ...\)](#)

#### Workshop on Water Conservation and Reuse Projects in the Age of SWIFT

**February 2014** In 2013, Texas created a new water infrastructure bank and capitalized it with a \$2 billion appropriation, 20 percent of which the legislature set aside for conservation and reuse. A multidisciplinary panel explored the issues that state regulators will have to resolve as they try to implement the set-aside. [\(read more ...\)](#)

### Energy Center Research & Publications

#### Energy Center Releases Two Reports on Water Resources in Texas

**April 2014** The Energy Center released white papers on two critical environmental issues in Texas, water conservation and endangered species. [\(read more ...\)](#)

#### Energy Center Blog

The Energy Center Blog featured a post on [environmental auditing](#) by board member [Ashley T. K. Phillips](#) '03. UT Law professor [David Spence](#) also published two blog posts, one on [state-local conflicts over fracking](#) and the other on the [Obama Administration's energy policy](#) during a period of unparalleled congressional gridlock. [\(read more ...\)](#)

### Media Coverage

#### Energy Center Faculty in the Press

Several national and state media outlets sought out expert opinions from the Energy Center faculty on such topics as [state-local conflicts over fracking](#) (David Spence), a [dispute between Texas and New Mexico over Rio Grande water](#) (Jeremy Brown), and the [Galveston Bay oil spill](#) (Melinda Taylor).

### Energy Center Faculty

#### Courses

The [Energy Center faculty](#) taught [over two dozen courses](#) on energy law, environmental law, and arbitration/dispute resolution in the Spring 2014 semester. [\(read more ...\)](#)

### Energy Center Students

#### Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot

**April 2014** The Energy Center sponsored a team of eight UT Law students (Ashleigh Acevedo '15, Becca Bennie '14, Burton DeWitt '15, Alexandra Harrison '15, Garrett Martin '14, Lauren Miller '15, Josh Nosal '15, and Zahra Usmani '14) in the premiere moot court competition focused on international dispute resolution, the [Vis Arbitral Moot](#), in Vienna. In addition to student coaches Bennie and Martin, the team was coached by Energy Center executive director Melinda Taylor and three attorneys from Baker Botts' international arbitration practice: partners [Michael P. Lennon, Jr.](#), and [Jennifer Smith](#) '90 (also an Energy Center board member), and associate [Dustin Appel](#). [\(read more ...\)](#)

### Coming this Summer

#### Conferences

##### Emerging Trends in International Arbitration in Latin America: Energy Disputes, Rules, Remedies, Jurisdiction, and Integration

**June 5-6, 2014** This two-day conference in Santiago, Chile, will focus on emerging trends in the use of international arbitration to resolve energy disputes in Latin America. Leading international experts will explore critical issues in the field of international dispute resolution related to increasing globalization and Latin American integration. The discussions will also cover changes in and challenges to international arbitration in energy disputes, including rules, remedies, and jurisdiction. [\(read more ...\)](#)