LL.M. Concentration in Global Energy, International Arbitration, and Environmental Law
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From l. to r.: Law School Dean Ward Farnsworth, Associate Director of Academics Dr. John Butler, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Executive Director Professor Melinda Taylor, and former McCombs School of Business Dean Tom Gilligan at the 2015 KBH Symposium.
Letter from the Executive Director

The world of today faces an energy challenge of unprecedented dimensions. Sophisticated technological innovations in the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have led to an energy revolution in the United States, with new supplies of oil and gas that dramatically reposition the U.S. in the global market.

Disputes between sovereign nations and investors, as well as commercial arbitrations in the energy sector, are growing rapidly – both in frequency and magnitude. At the same time, developed and developing countries alike must grapple with the realities of global climate change, water and pollution, and myriad threats to biodiversity associated with energy production.

To address these challenges, the School of Law and the McCombs School of Business have created the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy, Law, and Business to catalyze the interdisciplinary study of energy, including the structure of the energy industry, energy transactions, dispute resolution, and environmental law, science, and policy. We offer a number of innovative courses designed to prepare students to succeed in the energy sector, host distinguished lectures, conferences, and symposia related to energy, and produce original research on energy problems from legal and business perspectives. Our mission is to train the next generation of energy leaders in Texas, the United States, and the world.

Sincerely,

Melinda E. Taylor, J.D.
Senior Lecturer
Executive Director
LL.M. Concentration Requirements

LL.M. students have three options with respect to the concentration. First, students in the program may obtain a concentration in Global Energy, International Arbitration, and Environmental Law by completing a total of 14 credits. Concentration requirements include:

- Must complete at least 9 credits from one focus area (Global Energy, International Arbitration, or Environment)
- Must complete 5 credits from some combination of the remaining focus areas

The second option is for students to concentrate in two areas and obtain a certificate accordingly. Students pursuing this option are required to complete at least 12 hours from two focus areas. Concentration requirements include:

- Must complete 12 credits from some combination of two focus areas (Energy, International Arbitration, or Environment) and no fewer than 3 credits in one of the two focus areas

The third option is for students to concentrate in one area and obtain a certificate accordingly. Students pursuing this option must complete 12 credits from one focus area (Energy or Environment).

All students are strongly encouraged to take Administrative Law in addition to the 14 or 12 required credit hours.
Sample Course Offerings

Following is a partial list of courses in each of the three subject areas. Not every course is offered every year and additional courses are offered from time to time that meet the certificate requirements.

**Energy Law**

- International Petroleum Transactions
- International Business Transactions
- Oil and Gas Law
- Oil and Gas Taxation
- Energy Law
- Texas Wind Law
- Emerging Issues in Renewable Energy Policy
- Law, Science, and Finances of International Energy Transactions
- Oil and Gas Leasing and Regulation
- Energy Law and Policy
- Public Policy Issues/Climate Change/Renewable Electric Industry

**International Arbitration**

- Arbitration
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- International Commercial Arbitration
- Investor-State Arbitration
- Topics in the Theory and Practice of Arbitration
- Arbitration in Latin America
- International Arbitration: Practicum
- International Business Transactions

**Environmental Law**

- Environmental Law (survey)
- Advanced Environmental Law – Air and Water
- Advanced Environmental Law – Toxics
- Environmental Impacts of Oil and Gas Development and Production
- Property and Governance
Environmental Law (continued)

- Water Law and Policy in the 21st Century
- Texas Environmental and Administrative Law
- Land Use Law
- Topics in Sustainable Development
- Ocean Law
- Environmental Litigation
- Coastal Watershed Protection
- Solving Toxic Problems: Putting Theory into Practice
- Climate Change Law
- Fracking and More: Environmental Issues in Unconventional Energy Development

Field Visits

The KBH Energy Center organizes field visits to complement what students learn inside the classroom. Past field visits have included the Sweetwater Wind Farm, one of the largest wind farms in the world, and the university’s Hal C. Weaver Power Plant.

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Texas is the largest oil, gas, and wind power producer in the U.S. Nearly 30% of the nation’s proved natural gas reserves are in Texas. It contains one-fourth of the nation’s refining capacity, 40% of the country’s chemical production capacity, and utilizes an independent electricity grid that serves 23 million people. The state has more than 12,000 megawatts of installed wind capacity. Texas’ solar power potential is also among the nation’s highest, representing one-fifth of the U.S. total. Texas has an abundance of biomass energy resources, and the energy sector is one of the most important employers in the state.

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Suggested Sequence of Courses

We recommend LL.M. students take the following foundational courses first, then seminars and more specialized courses.

For Energy
- Energy Law, Oil & Gas, and International Petroleum Transactions are foundational courses.

For International Arbitration
- International Commercial Arbitration and Investor/State are foundational courses.

For Environmental
- Environmental Law, Environmental Law & Natural Resources, Toxics, and Air & Water are foundational courses.

LL.M. students visit the Sweetwater Wind Farm, one of the largest in the world, in March 2016.
Learning and Living in Austin

Campus Treasures
UT is home to many rich cultural treasures, artifacts, art, manuscripts, photographs, musical recordings, and historical documents. Most venues are free.

- The **Blanton Museum of Art** is the largest university art museum in the country.
- The **LBJ Presidential Library** houses 45 million pages of historical documents, 650,000 photos, and 5,000 hours of recordings from LBJ’s political career.
- The **Benson Latin American Collection** is one of the premier libraries in the world focused on Latin America and Latino Studies. The **Harry Ransom Center** has acquired the archive of Gabriel García Márquez.

The Austin Community
The fastest-growing city in the United States, Austin is a creative center that draws talented people from across the world.

- Austin is a very active city, and residents love **running** along its trails, **boating** on its lakes, and **biking** through its hill country.
- South by Southwest (SXSW) is an annual **music, film, and interactive festival** held in Austin. Austin is also home to **Formula 1**.
- Austin boasts numerous well-renowned chefs while remaining true to its roots in local fare, which features one-of-a-kind **taco shops and food trucks**.
Who We Are

The Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy, Law, and Business is an interdisciplinary academic center created by the School of Law and the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin. The mission of the KBH Energy Center is to provide the finest educational opportunities in the United States to students who wish to pursue careers in energy and to serve as a nexus for incisive, unbiased, and relevant research and conferences for policy makers around the world, with a special focus on Latin America.

Contact Us

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