



CONNECTIONS, CONVERSATIONS AND COFFEE

Steptoe & Johnson PLLC Bridgeport, West Virginia

CEO Chris Slaughter (right) and Tim McKeen, assistant chair of Energy & Natural Resources

A LONGTIME EXHIBITOR — 16 expos and counting — Steptoe & Johnson PLLC is a respected pillar of NAPE Summit as well as the broader energy community.

“Both as an exhibitor and as a sponsor and advocate of charitable efforts, Steptoe & Johnson has been a consistent supporter of NAPE over the last two decades. The impact Steptoe & Johnson has made on NAPE has contributed to the conference’s growth and success in providing a platform for the energy industry,” said Cranford Newell Jr., CPL, a past NAPE Operators Committee chair and land manager at Robert L. Bayless, Producer LLC.

“Founded over 100 years ago, Steptoe & Johnson is an incredible story of perseverance and hard work that has allowed the firm to grow and expand into one of the preeminent law firms in the country. Their presence, insight and engagement consistently elevate the quality of collaboration across the energy industry,” Newell added.

Steptoe & Johnson is a U.S. law firm with strengths in energy, labor

and employment, litigation and transactional law. In 1913, Philip P. Steptoe and Louis A. Johnson established a law firm in Clarksburg, West Virginia, that quickly gained prominence in the fields of mineral, oil and gas, banking, insurance, litigation and public utility law. Fast forward 113 years, and Steptoe & Johnson PLLC has grown to support more than 400 attorneys and other professionals along with some 300 staff members working in 18 offices across seven states.

Steptoe & Johnson’s history with NAPE began in 2006, when several of the firm’s attorneys, including Energy Department Chair Sharon Flanery, attended their first NAPE Summit. Drawn by the energy and excitement of the event and opportunities to meet so many energy professionals and leaders, the firm committed to participating in Summit on an annual basis.

“I remember walking the expo floor with our beloved colleague, Russ Schetroma, who passed away in 2015,” Flanery said. “Clients and attendees would spot Russ and make a beeline for us for a chance to discuss issues with

him. We referred to Russ as the ‘Dean of Oil & Gas Law in the East’ because he could discuss any issue. He was a walking textbook of energy law, a driving force behind our expansion in Pennsylvania, Texas and Colorado, and served as managing member of the firm’s Meadville, Pennsylvania, and The Woodlands, Texas, offices.”

Steptoe & Johnson hosted its first NAPE booth in 2011 — about the same time the Marcellus and Utica boom was coming into full swing. With its eastern offices geographically situated in the heart of the drilling surge, the firm quickly made a name for itself throughout the U.S. energy industry. The national recognition helped Steptoe & Johnson establish its first Texas office — in The Woodlands — in 2013, followed by offices in Dallas, Collin County, and San Antonio, as well as in Denver and Oklahoma City.

“NAPE has enabled Steptoe & Johnson to grow immensely in the energy space by strengthening existing client relationships and fostering relationships with new clients,” said Tim McKeen, assistant chair of Energy & Natural Resources. “It’s been a valuable space to stay on top of what is going on in basins across the country, keep us abreast of deals in the pipeline and help us stay on top of important issues that impact our clients.”

The Steptoe & Johnson booth is known for its lively conversation — and premium coffee, which has become a crowd favorite.

“Over the years, Steptoe & Johnson has been fortunate to meet with thousands of attendees who have stopped by our booth to talk deals and legal issues in the energy industry, or to just say hello and enjoy our coffee. Our attorneys appreciate being able to meet new faces, connect with old acquaintances and interact with clients and other professionals in the industry,” McKeen said. “We continue to believe that NAPE is the ‘place to be’ and we

very much look forward to what the future holds — at the conference and industrywide.”

Being part of the newest class of NAPE Hall of Fame inductees will bring extra cause for celebration to the 2026 Summit.

“Over the last 20 years we have seen tremendous growth in our energy practice and a large part of that is due to the connections and relationships we’ve made while attending NAPE Summit, sponsoring and setting up a booth,” Flanery said. “To be among the individuals and organizations recognized for playing a pivotal role in ‘making deals happen’ is an honor.”

NEW DAWN ENERGY WASN'T

INVOLVED in NAPE’s early days, but the E&P has provided sweeping support since its own launch a decade ago.

“Since its inception, New Dawn Energy has been a proud sponsor of NAPE and an active supporter of the oil and gas community,” said Eric Urban, vice president of land and acquisitions. “Our team has maintained an active presence at NAPE, acquiring projects and contributing to the growth of the industry. We also promote participation by inviting partners, individuals and companies to attend and engage in the event each year.”

“New Dawn Energy’s steadfast commitment to exhibiting and sponsoring at NAPE Summit, participating in the NAPE Job Fair and sponsoring the golf tournament exemplifies their dedication to our shared mission of propelling the energy industry forward,” said Julie Woodard, CPL, immediate past chair of the NAPE Operators Committee and senior land manager at Expand Energy Corp. “New Dawn Energy has made a significant impact in advancing the mission and success of NAPE, and we are proud to have



CHAMPIONING NAPE AND INDUSTRY FROM ITS VERY BEGINNING

New Dawn Energy Houston

VP Land and Acquisitions Eric Urban and EVP Business Development Ehsan Bayat

them as a key partner in our journey.”

Founded in 2015, New Dawn Energy LLC is a privately owned, Texas-based exploration and production company actively involved in the acquisition and divestiture of operated, nonoperated and mineral interests in oil and gas assets in the Lower 48. NDE has over 400,000 mineral acres across the U.S. and is active in all major basins.

“NAPE has provided NDE with valuable exposure to prospects and opportunities that might not otherwise be accessible. It has also served as a key platform for us to connect with other professionals in the industry, build meaningful relationships and expand our network of trusted associates,” Urban said.

“The oil and gas industry is continually evolving, and NAPE helps us stay at the forefront of that evolution. Continued involvement allows NDE to remain informed, engaged and connected as the industry advances — ensuring we’re part of the conversation driving future growth and innovation,” he added.

Looking ahead, the NDE team

is excited about the potential for new discoveries and the continued improvement of completion technologies.

“These advancements are opening doors to projects that were previously uneconomical, giving NDE the opportunity to invest in and develop assets that represent the next generation of growth for the company,” Urban said.

For Urban personally, the best part of NAPE is reconnecting with colleagues and friends from across the industry.

“Our day-to-day operations often keep us focused on active projects, so NAPE provides a great setting to catch up, share experiences and strengthen long-standing relationships,” he said.

“NDE looks forward to NAPE every year and greatly appreciates all the hard work that goes into making it a success,” he added. “We look forward to many more years of participation and hope that NAPE will continue to provide a venue that promotes education, investment opportunities and professionalism across the industry.”