

Partner, Houston  
Mergers and Acquisitions



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#### Education

J.D., Northwestern University  
School of Law, 2002 (*cum laude*)

B.A., Northwestern University, 1998  
(*magna cum laude*)

#### Bar Admissions

Texas

#### Presentations

CLE presentations include "Public Mergers of Equals" and "Recent Trends in Deal Protection."

Eric Otness is a corporate attorney, concentrating in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, joint ventures and general corporate and securities matters. Mr. Otness represents public and private companies, private equity firms and hedge funds, as well as investment banks and financing sources in a variety of U.S. and international transactions, primarily in the oil and gas sector.

In 2019, Mr. Otness was named one of *Texas Lawyer's* Most Effective Dealmakers.

His relevant experience includes representing:

- Brookfield Asset Management in connection with various investments in the energy sector, including Brookfield Infrastructure Partners' acquisition of co-controlling interests in two natural gas pipelines in Mexico from affiliates of BlackRock, Inc.;
- ExxonMobil in connection with its joint venture with Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) for their Gulf Coast Growth Ventures project, which includes the planned construction of a 1.8 million tonne ethane cracker and a monoethylene glycol unit and two polyethylene units in San Patricio County, Texas;
- Noble Energy, Inc. in its:
  - \$3.2 billion acquisition of Clayton Williams Energy, Inc.;
  - \$3.9 billion acquisition of Rosetta Resources Inc.; and
  - \$3.4 billion acquisition of Patina Oil & Gas Corporation;
- Haloroc Holdings in a variety of corporate and oil and gas M&A matters, including the formation of its upstream investment platform joint-venture with Colony Capital (now rebranded as Alpine Energy Capital following an additional partnership with Equity Group Investments);
- EMAS Chiyoda Subsea in connection with the sale of assets to Subsea 7 in connection with its Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization;
- Talen Energy Supply, LLC, a Riverstone portfolio company, in a variety of corporate and financing matters;
- Sun Edison, Inc. and its affiliates in a variety of asset sales in connection with its Chapter 11 plan of reorganization;
- the lead investor in RKI Exploration and Production, LLC in connection with the \$2.75 billion acquisition of RKI by WPX Energy, Inc.;
- Sage Road Capital, LP, a Houston-based private equity firm, in its acquisition of Banner Oil & Gas, LLC and a variety of fund-level corporate and oil and gas matters;
- Five Point Capital Partners LLC and affiliates of GSO Capital Partners LP, in their acquisition of a 50 percent interest in Twin Eagle Resource Management, LLC from Chesapeake Energy Corporation and LS Power Group;

# Eric C. Otness

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- Castle Harlan, Inc., Lime Rock Partners and CHAMP Private Equity in the formation of Shelf Drilling, Ltd. and the acquisition by Shelf Drilling of a fleet of off-shore jack-up drilling rigs from Transocean Ltd., which received the highest ranking in the Corporate & Commercial category in the *Financial Times*' 2013 "U.S. Innovative Lawyers" report;
  - Archer Limited (formerly Seawell Limited) in its \$870 million acquisition of Allis-Chalmers Energy Inc., its \$630 million acquisition of Great White Energy Services and its \$158 million acquisition of Grey Wireline;
  - RRI Energy, Inc. in its \$1.6 billion merger of equals with Mirant Corporation to create GenOn Energy, Inc., and GenOn Energy in its \$1.7 billion merger with NRG Energy, Inc.;
  - BJ Services Company in its \$5.5 billion acquisition by Baker Hughes Incorporated;
  - Compagnie Générale de Géophysique in its \$3.1 billion acquisition of Veritas DGC, Inc.;
  - Vulcan Energy Corporation in its contested leveraged buyout of Plains Resources Inc.;
  - Harvest Partners, a private equity firm, in its investment in Seminole Energy Services;
  - Reliant Energy, Inc. in its \$350 million PIPEs offering of convertible preferred stock to First Reserve Corporation, a private equity firm;
  - Vulcan Capital, a private equity firm, in its \$219 million sale of its 50 percent indirect interest in PAA/Vulcan Gas Storage, LLC to Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.;
  - Santos TPY Inc. in its sale of Santos USA Corp to IPR Exploration, Inc.;
  - Titan Specialties, Ltd., in its sale of a majority of the limited and general partnership interests in Titan to Riverstone Holdings LLC and The Carlyle Group;
  - Silver Point Capital, L.P., a private equity firm, in various acquisitions and divestitures of oil and gas assets; and
  - the audit, conflicts and governance committee of Enterprise Products GP, LLC in connection with the merger of Enterprise with TEPPCO Partners, LP.