

## Every Session Is a Due Diligence Session: Inside Mick Law's 2026 Energy & Global Alts Symposium

Mick Law's 2026 Energy & Global Alts Symposium brought together the firm's largest audience in the event's history in an invitation-only gathering of independent broker-dealers, registered investment advisory firms, family offices, pension representatives, and CPA clients, alongside investment sponsors and service provider colleagues. The symposium opened against the backdrop of a global oil supply shock driven by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and the convergence of that market reality with a record-setting capital-raising year in 2025 for retail oil and gas programs gave the three days a unique focus.

Following sponsor presentations each day, the Mick Law team convened closed-door sessions reserved exclusively for broker-dealer, RIA, and family office attendees to provide direct, unfiltered dialogue on the offerings and sponsors they had just seen. Real lawyers. Real legal opinions. Real due diligence.

### ■ PRESENTATIONS & SPONSOR ROSTER

Sixteen oil and gas sponsors presented across three days, representing the full spectrum of retail exploration and production strategies: operated and non-operated drilling, mineral rights and royalty acquisitions (on both a fund and Internal Revenue Code §1031-structured basis), value-add workover programs, and E&P investing through qualified opportunity fund/qualified opportunity zone-structured vehicles. The presenting roster included:

**Operated & Non-Operated Drilling:** Mewbourne Oil Company, MDS Energy Development, U.S. Energy Development Corporation, Citizen Energy Ventures, Spotted Hawk Energy Partners, SynerFuse, Mountain V Oil & Gas, Waveland Energy Partners, Trellis Energy Partners

**Private Equity / QOZ:** BIP Capital, Texakoma Resources

**Royalties & Mineral Acquisitions:** WhiteHawk Energy, Resource Royalty, Montego Minerals Holding Company, Purified Resource Partners

**Value-Add & Development:** Renaissance Growth Partners

### ■ RETURNING TOP PERFORMERS

All six of the top-performing sponsors from Mick Law's 2025 Year-End Oil & Gas Report returned for the symposium. Mewbourne Oil Company (operated drilling), MDS Energy Development (operated drilling), U.S. Energy Development Corporation (operated and non-operated drilling), Renaissance Growth Partners II (value-add development), WhiteHawk Income Corporation (royalties), and Montego Energy Partners (royalties) collectively accounted for 75% of the \$2.1 billion in program equity raised across 19 sponsors during 2025.



■ **EMERGING SPONSORS TO WATCH**

Two newer sponsors presented at the symposium. Citizen Energy Ventures focuses on operated drilling in the Oklahoma Anadarko Basin, bringing deep landman and operational expertise to a basin that has seen renewed interest from retail programs. Spotted Hawk Energy Partners focuses on operated and non-operated drilling in the Bakken Shale and Rockies — two of the basins that featured prominently in the Sunday market panel's discussion of where meaningful U.S. supply upside remains.

■ **EDUCATIONAL PANELS**

In addition to sponsor presentations, the symposium featured three educational sessions designed to provide attending advisors and due diligence officers with direct, practical context on current market conditions and the investment strategies on display.

The Sunday afternoon session, led by Dan Steffens, president of Energy Prospectus Group, provided a detailed assessment of current oil and gas market conditions, including the geopolitical environment and supply and demand developments affecting oil and gas prices.

The Monday morning session, Landman 2.0: Continuing the Discussion on Oil & Gas Due Diligence

Best Practices, was co-moderated by Brad Updike, director at Mick Law, and Brett Evans of Evans Law P.C., alongside panelists Chad Willis of Renaissance Growth Partners, James Woods of Citizen Energy Ventures, and Craig Sluetz of Texakoma Resources. The 60-minute session covered field operations and risk management, insurance and capitalization, oil and gas pricing and economics, and exploration versus development drilling risk and return profiles.

The Tuesday morning session, Oil & Gas Program Strategies & Tax/Financial Planning Considerations, was led by Brad Updike alongside Matthew Chancey, CFP®, CEO of Tax Alpha Companies; Matthew Iak, executive vice president of U.S. Energy Development Corporation; Kyle Kadish, director of private markets at Revere Securities; and Woody Soemantoro, executive vice president of due diligence at MDS Energy Development.

The mix of attendees reflected the continued broadening of the retail alternatives market: more than half came from the capital allocation side, including retail broker-dealers, registered investment advisory firms, family offices, and managers from fund-of-fund programs. Bryan S. Mick delivered closing remarks on Tuesday before the final closed-door session brought the 2026 symposium to a close.

■ **The Hormuz Supply Shock: What it Means for Energy Markets and Retail Programs**

Dan Steffens, president of the Energy Prospectus Group, opened the symposium's educational panels with a presentation titled "State of the U.S. Energy Industry." The world, he argued, is in the middle of a historic oil supply shock, and markets are not pricing it correctly.

The numbers are stark. The International Energy Agency estimates global demand will reach approximately 104 million barrels per day in 2026; as of April, supply stood at only 95.1 million barrels per day (b/d), a decline since February of 12.8 million b/d. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has already caused the largest decline in

oil supply in recorded history. Even if hostilities ended today, 3 to 5 million b/d of that supply will not return this year. Physical inventories in Asia and Europe are weeks from operational minimums, and the demand-over-supply imbalance is expected to persist deep into 2027.

Steffens walked through three paths for resolution of the Iran conflict: U.S. withdrawal, maximum military pressure, or a sustained economic blockade. He concluded that all three push oil prices higher than current levels. The Long Game scenario, in which the U.S. maintains the blockade long enough to force a surrender, was identified as most likely, requiring several months at minimum before any meaningful supply recovery begins.

His warning on the New York Mercantile Exchange futures strip was pointed. The strip is built on a false

paradigm: the assumption that physical markets rebalance quickly once a disruption ends. Given the structural damage already done to supply chains, advisors were cautioned against treating it as a planning tool or price forecast. The Permian Basin is the only U.S. onshore basin with significant additional production upside. Increased domestic drilling activity alone will not close a gap of this magnitude.

On natural gas, growing U.S. liquefied natural gas export capacity, currently approximately 19 billion cubic feet per day and expected to grow by approximately 4 billion cubic feet per day year-over-year by November 2026, presents a parallel opportunity. Natural gas prices in Asia (\$17.02 per million British thermal units) and Europe (\$16.13 per million British thermal units) remain far above U.S. levels, positioning domestic producers favorably for the medium term.

## ■ Oil & Gas Program Strategies & Tax/Financial Planning Considerations

The session “Oil & Gas Program Strategies & Tax/Financial Planning Considerations” brought together Brad Updike, director at Mick Law; Matthew Chancey, certified financial planner and chief executive officer of Tax Alpha Companies; Matthew Iak, executive vice president of U.S. Energy Development Corporation; Kyle Kadish, director of private markets at Revere Securities; and Woody Soemantoro, executive vice president of due diligence at MDS Energy Development. Four areas are of particular relevance to advisors placing or considering these products.

### Intangible drilling costs and the active income advantage

Intangible drilling costs, the non-salvageable costs of drilling, completion, and workovers, represent 65% to 80% of investor capital in most programs and are immediately deductible in the year incurred. For investors structured as general partners in a qualifying partnership, these deductions offset any source of ordinary income, including wages and business income. Timing matters: a non-refundable payment to the operator must be made by December 31, with drilling commencing within the first 90 days of the following year.

### Oil & gas vs. other tax mitigation strategies

The panel compared five primary tax mitigation strategies in the retail alternatives market: Section 1031 exchanges, opportunity zone funds, leveraged depreciation, charitable contribution strategies, and oil and gas programs. The key planning distinction: oil and gas is the only strategy offering an above-the-line deduction against active ordinary income. Section 1031 and opportunity zone vehicles defer capital gains; bonus depreciation generates passive losses; charitable strategies require itemization. Future production income is partially sheltered through a 15% depletion allowance that continues for the life of the wells.

### Royalties vs. drilling for qualified accounts

Drilling programs are often not suited to individual retirement accounts and other qualified accounts: the intangible drilling cost shelter is lost, and programs may generate unrelated business taxable income, taxable even within a deferred account. Royalty programs can be more appropriate: royalty income is listed as a non-unrelated business taxable income source under Section 512(b), the 15% depletion allowance applies, and royalty interests are eligible for Section 1031 treatment at both entry and exit.

### Opportunity zones and the December 31, 2026 deadline

The current opportunity zone framework under Internal Revenue Code Section 1400Z-2 remains in effect through 2026, offering income tax deferral and long-term capital gains benefits through qualified

opportunity fund investments. Beginning January 1, 2027, a revised qualified opportunity fund framework is expected to take effect, potentially positioning opportunity zones as a new model for energy and private equity investment.

## Recent Opinions

### Eagle Eye Fund 2, LP

May 27, 2026

### Resource Royalty 27, LLC

May 21, 2026

### Passco Allure DST

May 15, 2026

### CS1031 Cacema Townhomes, DST

May 22, 2026

### Wildlife Partners Mountain Home DST

May 18, 2026

### Citizen Energy 2026 Drilling Fund, LP

May 15, 2026

### FG Communities Candler Indian Creek DST

May 13, 2026

### BR Diversified Industrial Portfolio 8 DST

May 12, 2026

### MCI Exchange Bellagio A Series, DST

May 12, 2026

## Upcoming Events

### 14TH ANNUAL MICK COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

June 15-17 | Omaha, Nebraska

### 2026 ADISA DUE DILIGENCE FEATURING TNDDA

June 24-26 | Washington D.C.

### 2026 MICK LAW REAL ESTATE SYMPOSIUM

October 18-20, 2026 | Tempe, AZ



Mick Law congratulates Grace Hope Updike on her graduation from Creighton University.

## QUESTIONS?

For questions regarding sponsor opinions, or for all other inquiries, kindly contact **David Sengstock**, president, at [dsengstock@micklawpc.com](mailto:dsengstock@micklawpc.com), or **Zia Sabir**, vice president, at [zsabir@micklawpc.com](mailto:zsabir@micklawpc.com).