

PAST CHAIR PROFILE

ARNOLD J. (“ARNE”) JOHNSON

(1955-2025)

OGERL Council Chairman (2006-2007)

The Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Council of the State Bar of Texas periodically prints articles profiling Past Chairs of the Council. Through their hard work and dedication, these Past Chairs provided much to the Council specifically and to the practice of oil, gas and energy law in Texas generally. Recognition of these Past Chairs is due.

Arne Johnson passed away peacefully on February 19, 2025, after a brief battle with cancer. He was Chair of the Oil, Gas, and Energy Resources Law Council for the 2006-2007 term, serving on the Council from 1999 through 2008. During his time on the Council, he led the Council to expand its CLE offerings for the benefit of members and was a frequent speaker and contributor to various Texas Bar CLE programs. He wrote numerous articles and gave presentations on the topic of legal ethics. For many years, he was a member of the Texas State Bar College.

Born August 2, 1955, in Des Moines, Iowa, he grew up in a nearby suburb. He graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in 1977 and thereafter served on the foundation board of that institution. Arne graduated in 1980 from Creighton University School of Law in Omaha Nebraska, where he met and married the love of his life, Mary Le Conway. The Johnsons then moved to Houston where Arne began his career as a landman for the Atlantic Richfield Company (“**ARCO**”). Eventually he transferred to the ARCO Legal Department where he worked until assigned to the Legal Department of ARCO’s subsidiary, Vastar Resources. He worked there until ARCO and Vastar were acquired by British Petroleum (“**BP**”) BP in 2000. Thereafter he served as Senior Counsel in the BP Legal Department until he joined Noble Energy in 2001 as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary. He served in those capacities until his retirement in 2017.

In addition to his service to the OGERL Section of the Texas State Bar, Arne held leadership roles in many professional organizations including the World Affairs Council of Houston, the Institute for Energy Law, the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute, and the Houston Bar Association. He served on the board of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and on various parish councils in Houston.

After retirement, Arne and Mary Le moved to Round Top TX for a slower pace of life. Arne became very active in St. John’s Catholic Church in Fayetteville, TX, as well as supporting Arts for Rural Texas in Fayetteville, the Janssen Animal Shelter of La Grange, and The Bugle Boy live music venue in La Grange. Arne loved his church, his beloved wife of 44 years Mary Le, practicing Oil & Gas law, the arts, music, his collection of cowboy boots, and his four cats Henry, Toby, Tory,

and Tomas. Arne was a friend to everyone he met and went out of his way to help those in need. He will be missed.

- Norma Rosner Iacovo, Tenaska, Inc., Irving, Texas