

Court Advisory

Fourth Court of Appeals
Cadena-Reeves Justice Center
300 Dolorosa, Suite 3200
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3037



Contact: Keith Hottle, Clerk of the Court
Phone: (210) 335-2510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2015

Fourth Court of Appeals to Hear Oral Argument

The Fourth Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in one appeal on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m., before the following panel of justices: Justice Marialyn Barnard, Justice Patricia O. Alvarez, and Justice Jason Pulliam.

The following case will be presented:

Lightning Oil Company v. Anadarko E&P Onshore LLC f/k/a Anadarko E&P Company, LP - Appellant Lightning Oil Company holds an oil and gas lease for the mineral estate—the Cutlass Lease—underlying a portion of the Briscoe Ranch. The Briscoe Ranch owns its surface estate, and the ranch shares a border with the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area. The CWMA’s underlying, severed mineral estate has been leased to Appellee Anadarko E&P Onshore, LLC.

When Lightning learned Anadarko would site wells on the Briscoe Ranch and directionally drill through the Cutlass Lease to reach the adjacent CWMA mineral estate, Lightning sued Anadarko for trespass and tortious interference with its contract, and sought an injunction barring Anadarko from proceeding. Lightning argues its mineral estate rights enable it to exclude others, and Anadarko may not drill through the Cutlass Lease without Lightning’s permission. Anadarko asserts it needs only Briscoe Ranch’s permission to drill from the ranch’s surface through the area encompassed by the Cutlass Lease into Anadarko’s mineral estate—under the CWMA. Both parties filed motions for summary judgment. The trial court granted Anadarko’s motion and denied Lightning’s motion. Lightning appeals.

The oral arguments will be held in the Fourth Court’s Courtroom, Caden-Reeves Justice Center, Third Floor, 300 Dolorosa, San Antonio, Texas.