DAVIS GRAHAM

SAM NIEBRUGGE

PARTNER

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303.892.7433

EDUCATION

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., Order of St. Ives, 2007
University of Michigan, B.S.E., 2003

EXPERTISE

Energy Industry, Natural Resources, and Oil & Gas Industry

ADMITTED IN

Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Sam Niebrugge leads the Energy & Mining Group at Davis Graham where focuses his practice on transactional matters in various natural resource and energy sectors. His versatility as a lawyer and familiarity with the business trends impacting different industries make him an asset to legal teams assisting clients with complex transactions in a range of sectors.

Sam's practice has involved the drafting and negotiating of all forms of purchase and sale agreements (asset and equity), joint venture agreements, exploration, participation, and farmout/farmin agreements, and all types of commercial midstream agreements, in addition to other agreements in the oil and gas and mining industries.

Sam received his J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and was admitted into the Order of St. Ives, an honor awarded to graduates ranking in the top 10 percent of the graduating class. He earned a B.S.E. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in Mechanical Engineering in 2003. He is a registered patent attorney.

Sam has authored several papers and spoken extensively to in-house counsel and at continuing legal education events on his transactional work. From 2024–2026, he was named a ***Top Lawyer*** in Natural Resources Law by ***5280***. Since 2023, he has been selected as a "Leader of Their Field" in Energy & Natural Resources by ***Chambers USA***. In 2026, Sam received USA Nationwide ranking in Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional) by ***Chambers USA***. He was also included in ***Who's Who Legal: Energy*** from 2015–2023 and was recognized as one of the world's leading practitioners in the 2024 edition. Earlier in his career, he was named a "Rising Star" by Colorado Super Lawyers from 2014 to 2020. In 2026, he was selected for Colorado Power 500 by ***ColoradoBiz***.

Sam is licensed in Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. He serves on the board of directors for the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation (COLTAF), an innovative partnership between Colorado lawyers and the banking community, whereby the interest on lawyers' pooled trust accounts is used to improve access to civil justice. He previously served as the president of COLTAF. Among his additional community- and industry-focused engagements, he was a founding member of the Denver Zoo's Leadership Council, served on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Energy Law, volunteered for Denver Public

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Schools as a substitute teacher and has been a mentor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Sam has been particularly engaged with the Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law (FNREL). He is currently the Chair of FNREL's Site Selection Committee. Additionally, he has served as an At-Large Trustee, was a founding member and former chair of FNREL's Young Professionals Committee and was a Trustee at Large. Finally, he currently serves as the chair of the Lex Mundi Energy and Natural Resources Practice Group.

Within the firm, Sam has chaired the Partnership Selection Committee and served as a member of the Davis Graham Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Technology Committees.

REPRESENTATIVE TRANSACTIONS

- $1.8 billion sale of producing and non-producing assets in Wyoming
- $1.5 billion sale of producing and non-producing assets in the Delaware Basin in Texas in a combined asset and equity transaction
- $1.1 billion sale of producing and non-producing assets in North Dakota in a combined asset and equity transaction
- $1 billion transaction for the sale of producing and non-producing assets in the Anadarko Basin
- $925 million purchase and sale agreement in the Jonah Field of Wyoming
- $880 million purchase and sale agreement in the Eagleford Basin of Texas
- $400 million participation agreement for the development of several federal units
- $335 million purchase and sale agreement in the Wind River and Powder River Basins of Wyoming and Garfield County, Colorado
- $330 million purchase agreement in Divide and Williams County, North Dakota
- $250 million sale of producing and nonproducing assets in Colorado
- $214 million purchase and sale agreement in the DJ Basin of Colorado
- $208 million purchase and sale agreement in Pennsylvania

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Evaluating the Purchase and Sale Agreement in Light of Potential Royalty and Tax Claims,**" *Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Journal,*** Volume 46, No. 1, 2009
- Co-author, "Industry Agreements Affecting Record Title," Nuts and Bolts of Mineral Title Examination, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Special Institute, 2012
- Author, "Oil and Gas Law Jurisprudence: The Latest Jurisprudence, Legislation, and Regulation," 58th Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute, 2012
- Co-author, "Industry Agreements Affecting Record Title**," *Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Journal***, Volume 52, No. 2, 2015
- "Force Majeure Clauses in Your Oil & Gas Leases," Davis Graham Legal Alert, March 27, 2020
- Comments published in "US Shale M&A Poised for Inventory-Driven Growth," ***Energy Intelligence***, April 25, 2023