

TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

TULANE

LAWYER

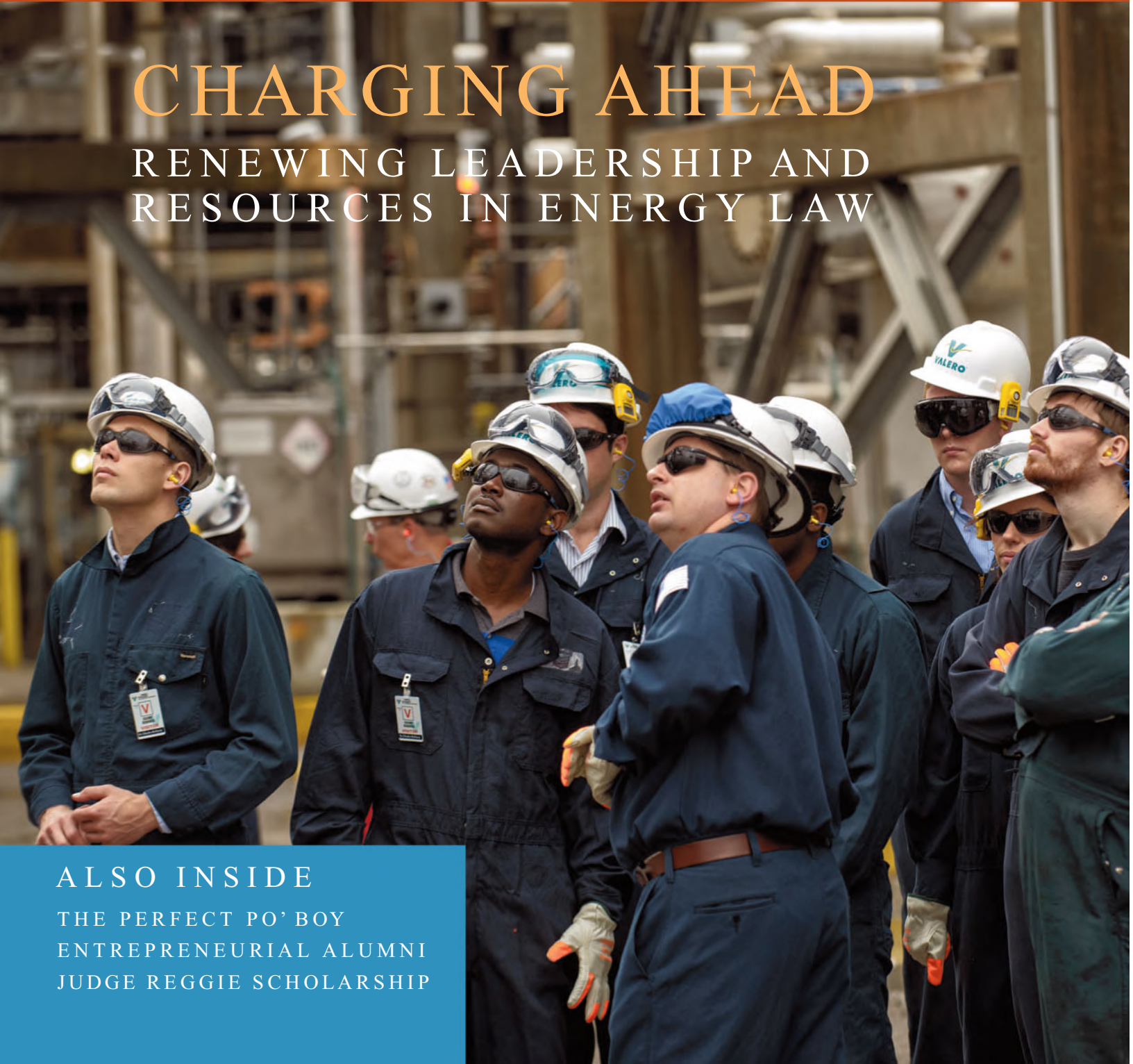
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CHARGING AHEAD

RENEWING LEADERSHIP AND
RESOURCES IN ENERGY LAW

ALSO INSIDE

THE PERFECT PO' BOY
ENTREPRENEURIAL ALUMNI
JUDGE REGGIE SCHOLARSHIP



VALERO TOUR

UP-CLOSE AT VALERO REFINERY COMPLEX, STUDENTS GAIN INSIGHT ON INDUSTRY LAWYERING

ENSURING REGULATORY COMPLIANCE is not only about knowing where to look up the relevant provisions in the Code of Federal Regulation. It also requires a deep understanding of the business operation of a regulated industry at the ground level.

That's part of what Tulane Law School students learn during full-day field visits to Valero Energy Corporation's St. Charles Refinery, one of the world's largest and most sophisticated plants of its kind, located 15 miles up the Mississippi River from New Orleans in Norco, Louisiana.

On Tulane students' trips during the fall and spring semesters, Valero attorneys and engineers provide up-close tours exploring the complexity of legal compliance in the energy industry. After a briefing on the refining process and instruction on plant safety, students are outfitted with Nomex fire-retardant suits, hard hats, safety glasses, ear plugs and breathing monitors, then walk through the refinery's maze of equipment to see components such as the coker, catalytic cracking unit, desalter water feed drum and 2,000-degree Claus furnace, where sulfur is removed from the hydrogen sulfide gas that the crude oil refining process produces.

"You have to understand the science before you can understand the law," said Valero Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Rich Walsh, who was instrumental in forging



MARIA KALOUSHI-TATUM (L '16) CALLED THE VALERO TOUR "INDISPENSABLE" FOR STUDENTS WISHING TO WORK IN ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OR THE ENERGY INDUSTRY.

the educational partnership between Valero and Tulane.

Later, students hear from engineers and the company's in-house lawyers, who fly in from Valero's San Antonio headquarters, and learn that ensuring compliance with the welter of environmental, safety, occupational and even homeland-security



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACKSON HILL

ANDRE MARQUETTE, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING MANAGER AT VALERO'S ST. CHARLES REFINERY, EXPLAINS THE PLANT'S SOPHISTICATED MONITORING SYSTEM TO TULANE LAW STUDENTS.



Gillian Saltz, now a 3L student, worked during summer 2014 at Valero Energy Corporation's legal department in San Antonio.

regulations that govern the plant requires an ongoing dialogue between the company's managers and lawyers and governmental regulators.

"I don't get asked an easy question ever," said Managing Counsel Elizabeth Bourbon.

Dean David Meyer, who sat in on the Valero field visits in March, said the experience gives students a lesson not typically taught in law school.

"Students see that closely understanding a client's business operation and goals is as essential as understanding the law," Meyer said. "Both are required to be an effective lawyer."

The addition to the law school's expanding array of experiential learning opportunities already has proved beneficial.

Student Maria Kalousi-Tatum, who spent a day at the Valero facility during her 1L year, called the experience "indispensable for all students wishing to work for environmental regulatory agencies or the energy industry as a whole."

Kalousi-Tatum, who went on to intern for the New York City environmental protection department during the summer of 2014, said the visit changed some of her preconceived notions about the industry and helped her "understand that we're all part of the environment and ... we can all work together to improve it."

Mark Spansel (L '78), a partner at Adams & Reese in New Orleans who serves as Valero's outside counsel and spoke to students during the visit, said they can "get an upfront, close view of opportunities in the law in such a critical industry."

One Tulane student, Gillian Saltz, now a 3L from California, got a still-closer view: as a result of the new partnership, she landed a summer 2014 job working in Valero's legal department in San Antonio.

"It absolutely opened my eyes to the role lawyers play in the energy industry," Saltz said afterward. "They were involved in every aspect of the refining process, from transporting the crude to the refinery to delivering their product to the distributors and all the contracts, regulations and litigation in between. It truly is amazing to see the machine in action, and ... they made sure I was involved with any department I was interested in: environmental and regulation, litigation, employment and transactional."

"YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE SCIENCE BEFORE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE LAW." —VALERO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL RICH WALSH



TULANE STUDENTS SUCH AS RAMON LANTIGUA (LLM '13) HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL INTERACTION WITH VALERO'S LEGAL TEAM, INCLUDING SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL RICH WALSH.