It may be six years since the Deepwater Horizon disaster, but for those in the industry, it is an event we will never forget. Months of speculation, investigation and finally litigation followed in its aftermath. As the largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry, the ramifications and economic costs affected not only the industry, but tourism, real estate prices, fishing and marine life.

It is also a disaster that has resulted in important shifts in energy policy, insurance and risk assessment, procedures and technology.

At our luncheon on September 22, 2016 Gwen E. Richard and Jason P. Sharp, attorneys at law with LeClairRyan and legal counsel to Halliburton during the Horizon trial phase, will provide an overview of the disaster from a legal standpoint. Their four-part presentation will cover:

**The actual blowout** – The parties involved, drilling the well, the production casing issues, and the well control activities during the final displacement and blowout on April 20, 2010. The presenters will also discuss the actions taken by the marine crew, the state of the blowout preventer and the subsequent fire and rig collapse.

**Oil spill** – The government estimated that almost five billion barrels of oil was discharged. The presentation will discuss the severity of the spill, the response and methods used to control it.

**Lawsuits** – The presenters will summarized the number of lawsuits and the extend of the Multidistrict Litigation, the claimants and defendants, the various trials, the allocation of and degree of fault, the penalty phase, the final outcome and the extent of liability.

**Changes in the industry** – The presentation will conclude with a summary of the changes that have resulted due to this disaster, including a discussion of the major provisions of the new US Well Control Rule introduced by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the creation of the Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC) specifically created to be continuously “on the ready” to respond to a deepwater well control incident should one occur.

Disasters happen and nothing can compensate for the loss of life associated with Macondo. But what we have learn and the changes that have been made as a result of the incident are critical to preventing a similar occurrence in the future. Make sure to attend this important presentation.

**About the Speakers**

Gwen E. Richard is a trial attorney with LeClairRyan Attorneys at Law, with over 25 years of experience representing companies and individuals in state and federal court. She has tried dozens of cases to verdict and earned Board Certification from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Personal Injury Trial Law. While representing Halliburton in the BP Macondo trial, Gwen managed Phase Two of the case, addressing events between the time of the blowout and the well being shut in.

Jason Sharp is a partner with LeClairRyan and also represented Halliburton in the Horizon Deepwater lawsuit, where he served as member of the trial team for Phase II. He is an experienced energy and business litigator knowledgeable and experienced in complex litigation involving oil field technology trade secret disputes, breach of contract, non-compete disputes, employment law, products liability, and insurance coverage.
JOB SEARCH SEMINAR - HOW TO STAND OUT IN A TOUGH MARKET  
Tuesday September 27: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Whether or not you are looking for a job, don’t miss this valuable seminar hosted by RJ Capital. The seminar is specifically targeted to MTS Houston members and their associates. Participants will learn how to create targeted job searches, brush up their resumes, most effectively present themselves to prospective employers, improve their interview skills, and more. The seminar is being held at the Norris Conference Centers, 816 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 210 in CityCentre. It is just $30.00 per attendee and includes lunch. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com and search “RJ Capital” or contact Thomas Brown at thomas@rjcap.com, 713 568-9780

ANNUAL BARBECUE SOCIAL  
October 27, 2016
Exhibit Opportunities
Don’t be left off the list! Exhibit tables for the upcoming barbecue are filling up. At just $250 for a table - that includes one entry pass - this is a great opportunity to get your company name, services and your products in front of an enthusiastic audience of industry professionals.

Sponsorships
Please consider adding your company to this year’s sponsors, shown in the column to the right. Sponsorships start at $250. All sponsors will receive excellent recognition on our website, in publicity materials and at the event.

Registration
This year’s event will once again include great barbecue, adult beverages, networking opportunities, a one-of-a-kind Silent Auction and 75 tables for exhibitors. More info at www.mtshouston.org/bbq.cfm, or contact Melissa Wood at Melissa_a_wood2001@yahoo.com

ARE YOU AN MTS HOUSTON SECTION MEMBER?
if you are an MTS member not affiliated to a Section, please considering assigning yourself to the Houston Section. Go to www.mtsociety.org, login, then go your profile and select Houston as your Section. Watch your email for more information.

MTS HOUSTON CALENDAR
September 27, 2016
Job Search Seminar  
(Supported by MTS Houston)

October 10-12, 2016
Dynamic Positioning Conference  
Westin Memorial City, Houston

October 27, 2016 - MTS Houston Annual Barbecue Social  
Seanic Ocean Systems
Great Barbeque, Networking, 75 Exhibit Tables and a one of a kind Silent Auction.

**When:** Thursday, October 27, 2016

**Location:**
Seanic Ocean Systems
25310 Clay Rd.
Katy, TX 77493

**Event Schedule:**
5:00 Registration opens
6:30 Food service begins
7:15 Scholarship Program begins
8:30 Evening concludes

$35 pre-registered, $50 at the door, Students - FREE
New membership at event is $75 then free entry into BBQ
5 Test Tank Exhibit Tables - $350 / 70 Standard Exhibit Tables - $250

To Register, please visit [www.mtshouston.org/bbq.cfm](http://www.mtshouston.org/bbq.cfm)

Any questions…contact BBQ Chair
Melissa Wood at [mwood@fugro.com](mailto:mwood@fugro.com)

Various Sponsorships Available.
For Sponsorship Information, please visit
[www.mtshouston.org/bbq.cfm](http://www.mtshouston.org/bbq.cfm)
MTS Houston has partnered with RJ Capital Investment Advisors to bring its members a timely and highly valuable presentation about job search and career transition topics. Doug Thorpe, Nationally recognized business coach and mentor, has extensive experience with career transition coaching. In 2008 he founded Jobs Ministry Southwest. Since then, the organization has served over 4,500 professionals in this area.

MTS Houston Members will learn how to:

- Build a key list of achievements and successes
- Highly target your job search on the companies that need your skills
- Update or rewrite your résumé to create your personal brand
- Effectively develop high-trust relationships to aid in the search/transition process
- Communicate your value throughout the interview process
- Create a plan to deliver your value to your new team

This event is specifically targeted to MTS Houston Members and their associates who are looking to jumpstart their career. Attend yourself or use this as an opportunity to help a friend or coworker who has recently lost their job.

Tuesday, September 27th at 11:30am (Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre)

Special Pricing: $30 for MTS Houston Members

Visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search “RJ Capital” for more information and to register. Contact Thomas Brown at [thomas@rjcap.com](mailto:thomas@rjcap.com) or 713-568-9780 with questions.

BONUS: This presentation will be packed with case studies and real-world examples to provide unmatched value. All attendees will get access to Doug’s extensive directory of job search and career transition resources.
Earlier this summer, Cory Weinbel with Venari Resources gave an inspiring presentation on the importance of cooperation in today's offshore arena. Cory made the point that deepwater offshore projects – or mega projects – can no longer be financed and managed by a single entity. It takes partnership and cooperation to successfully and profitably bring these projects onstream. But cooperation means more than just “getting along” with companies who might at other times be perceived as competitors. In the offshore arena, cooperation involves a high level of interdependence between vastly different vendors and contractors, as well as faith in their ability to meet the often changing and highly complex requirements of the project. With different vendors frequently physically separated – even on different continents – cooperation requires exacting communication to ensure that everyone is working to the same goal, the same specifications and the same expectations in terms of cost, timing, quality and delivery.

At our last luncheon, Stephen Whitaker, Project manager on Hess's Stampede Development, described some of the strategies that are going into this ultra deepwater development, where the reservoir is some 30,000 feet below the seafloor. With a 25% working interest, Hess shares the development with Union Oil Company of California, Statoil and Nexen Petroleum Offshore. But that is just the tip of iceberg. Dozens of contractors, vendors and consultants are playing a part in the project execution. Working in tandem, they are spearheading new technologies, dovetailing existing technologies and methodologies, trimming costs when necessary and basically doing what it takes to ensure the success of this extremely challenging development. Stephen Whitaker prefaced his presentation by discussing the utmost importance of safety on a project of this magnitude. At the end of each day, everyone working on any aspect of Stampede should “get home” safe. He emphasized that this does not just mean Hess employees, but includes everyone with a stake in the work – from those employed onshore at fabrication yards manufacturing piles or topsides, to those aboard support vessels to the crew on the platform itself – and everyone in between. Large scale construction and offshore projects by their very nature involve an element of danger. Rigorous attention to safety procedures and protocols is critical to ensuring a culture of zero tolerance when it comes to safety and to achieving the overall goal of zero lost man-hours.

Six years ago the importance of safety and what can happen when things go wrong was brought home all too clearly with the Deepwater Horizon explosion. Horrific as this was, disasters do become catalysts for change. Maconda shone a spotlight on some serious underlying problems, sparking massive and costly investigations, new legislation and heightened awareness. But if we do not learn from our mistakes, we are doomed to repeat them. At our luncheon on September 22, Gwen Richard and Jason Sharp Attorneys at Law with LeClairRyan, will summarize what went wrong on the Deepwater Horizon, the lawsuits and litigation that followed, what was learned and, most important, industry changes that have resulted. Please plan on attending this important presentation.
The 2016 MTS Dynamic Positioning Conference is the best way for DP stakeholders to keep abreast of the latest technology, applications and changes affecting Dynamic Positioning. Now in its 21st year, this is a must-attend event for all professionals actively involved in DP or interested in gaining a better understanding of this continually evolving technology.

The event starts with a one-day workshop followed by a two-day technical conference. This provides three days of informative cutting-edge presentations, exhibits, and opportunities, through social gatherings, for informal discussions and exchange of knowledge, experience, and lessons learned. This focused conference provides access to key decision-makers and technology leadership in the Dynamic Positioning industry, making the MTS DP Conference the world’s leading symposium on Dynamic Positioning.

This year’s technical program will focus on new technology, as well as topical issues such as cybersecurity, green initiatives and asset redeployment. The conference should be of value to all DP professionals, including designers, engineers, DP operators, support staff, consultants, class societies, government organizations and regulatory agencies, and DP vessel managers and owners.

More information and registration at http://dynamic-positioning.com

(Note: Exhibit space is sold out for the event.)

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The MTS Houston Section Announcement is published monthly (11 issues a year) and distributed electronically to industry professionals.

Logo sponsorship ($150 a year) and advertising opportunities are available.

Please send articles and news items about upcoming events to the editor. Deadline for submissions is the first Thursday of the month of issue.

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