The idea of the lex petrolea as the customary law of the petroleum industry, and possibly even as an aspect of some more general lex mercatoria, has long been argued about in both in academic and judicial circles. Today, in the light of the ever-increasing complexities of the global petroleum industry, the existence and composition of lex petrolea as an element of the transnational law of ownership, extraction, transportation and trade of hydrocarbon resources is more important than ever. To this end, the Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, part of Swansea University's College of Law and Criminology, has organised a joint one-day seminar on the subject with the Center for Energy, Law, and Business of University of Texas Law School. This will take place on 21 June 2016. Speakers, selected from both academia and practice, will aim to look at all aspects of the reality of the lex petrolea and at recent developments in the sector. Discussion will move well beyond the theoretical existential question of the lex petrolea, and will (it is envisaged) focus on the three distinctive areas of petroleum arbitration, the legal frameworks governing the new frontiers of the industry in particular exploitation of non-conventional hydrocarbon resources (fracking) and maritime law.

Topics discussed will be varied, but will include:

- Boundaries of Oil and Gas Law
- Gas Pricing Disputes: Is Arbitration Delivering?
- Protection of Foreign Direct Investment in Upstream Enterprises
- Environmental Regulations and Hydraulic Fracturing: Lessons Learned from the U.S. Experience and Implications of the 2015 Paris Agreement
- Regulation of Fracking in the UK
- What is a ship in the context of petroleum law?
- Pollution from Offshore Installations- A Sui Generis Liability Regime?
- Offshore Oil and Gas Resources: Is There a Rule of Capture under International Law of the Sea?

Registration and other details:

The Symposium will be held on 21 June 2016 at Etc. Venues, Monument, 8 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AE. Registration starts at 8.45 am. Lunch, refreshments and delegates pack are included in the registration fee.

Registration fee: £100.00 (a reduced rate of £50.00 is offered to students with a valid student status)

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We will try to accommodate those applying after that date, but can make no guarantees in that respect. More detailed information and joining instructions will be sent to delegates on registration.