

## **Outstanding Corporate Counsel with an Attorney Staff of 2-10**

### **Dawn S. Born – Valerus Compression Services LP**

Suzanne Ogle of Valerus Compression Services LP nominated Dawn S. Born in the outstanding Corporate Counsel with an Attorney Staff of 2-10, saying:

“Leadership is intertwined with change. As the pace of change accelerates, there is a greater need for effective leadership. Dawn S. Born joined Valerus Compression Services LP, a worldwide leader in natural gas handling services including compression, gas services and production, in January of 2007 when the company was in its infancy and in an extraordinary growth mode. Valerus has grown from 551 employees in January 2007 to nearly 1,200 employees today. As general counsel and a member of the senior management team, Dawn established a legal function in a company that previously did not have one. She has effectively guided management in positioning Valerus for domestic and international growth through traditional organic means, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic partnering arrangements, while implementing best practices, internal controls, training and corporate compliance programs. Her ability to effectively navigate change combined with her vision, creativity and integrity has empowered Valerus management to develop and implement successful business strategies while mitigating risk. Dawn’s knowledge and communication skills have created a legal department that is integral to and embedded in the organization. Her passion is contagious and when advising on legal issues her charisma and judgment has resulted in significant change in how Valerus approaches business.”



### **TEAMWORK**

“Dawn is a thoughtful and effective leader who engages her team in dynamic interaction to achieve notable results. Dawn and her legal team of Lourdes Hernandez and Humberto Kuhn have significantly affected and formalized the business processes at Valerus and reduced the legal exposure of the growing partnership. Dawn and Lourdes have a longstanding relationship and she accommodated Lourdes’ desire for a flexible working arrangement to balance family, health and volunteer activities with work. Humberto is new to the organization, coming from a large traditional corporate structure and she is guiding him to practice in a fast-moving dynamic growth environment, focusing on results and not political organizational issues.”

## **CHALLENGES**

“Most CEOs shiver when environmental regulators call. Dawn calmly listened, immediately invoked the Texas self audit privilege and commenced a six-month self audit of all the company’s Texas fabrication facilities, disclosed the findings and led the company’s corrective actions – all to a no fine and regulatory commendation of Valerus as an example of a conscience corporate citizen and steward of the environment.”

*“Dawn Routinely requests minority and women lawyers to be assigned to her matters within law firms, giving them visibility and experience so they can shine.”*

Susan Ogle  
Valerus Compression Services LP

## **DAWN S. BORN**

**Years at present company:** 1-1/2

**Years practicing law:** 27

**Education:** University of Houston Law Center, Juris Doctor 1981, Summa Cum Laude, Order of the Barons, Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity; State University of New York, Oswego, New York, Bachelor’s degree in Public Justice 1977, Summa Cum Laude.