



ROBERT C. BLEDSOE was born in El Paso, Texas, soon moved to Presidio, and then grew up in Marfa. He graduated from the New Mexico Military Institute in 1949 and enrolled at The University of Texas's business school and its combination program for pre-law. After his first year of law school he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and called to active duty. After two years, he returned to law school, graduating in 1955.

Bledsoe then joined the firm of Baker, Botts, Andrews and Sheppard in Houston. Two years later, he returned to the Permian Basin and joined Hervey, Dow and Hinkle in Roswell, N.M., the leading oil and gas legal firm in New Mexico. He received an offer to join the Midland firm of Stubbeman, McRae, Sealy, Laughlin & Browder in 1959. During his time there, he was engaged by British Petroleum to work on the Prudhoe Bay Unit Agreement and Unit Operating Agreements.

In 1974, six lawyers left the Stubbeman firm to form Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe and Morrow. The founders envisioned a small firm, but the Arab oil crisis jumpstarted the U.S. oil industry. The law firm grew to 35 lawyers, becoming the Permian Basin's largest firm.

A frequent writer and speaker on oil and gas topics, Bledsoe was among the first group of Texas attorneys to be certified a specialist in oil, gas, and mineral law. He has served on the Board of the Oil and Gas Specialization. In 2008 he was recognized by the Texas Bar Foundation and received the Fifty-Year Lawyer Award, which honors lawyers who adhere to the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession.