

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA

Atlantic Maritime Services, LLC v. Ecopetrol America, LLC et al.

Atlantic Maritime Services · No. 20-3097 c/w 20-3099 · Decided December 9, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana granted Atlantic Maritime Services, LLC’s ex parte motions for writs of sequestration in consolidated actions involving claimed privileges under the Louisiana Oil Well Lien Act. The court concluded that the plaintiff adequately alleged and preserved its privileges and demonstrated that the defendants had the power to alienate, dispose of, waste, or encumber the interests and property subject to those privileges.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Carl J. Barbier
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
DECIDED	December 9, 2025
DOCKET	20-3097 c/w 20-3099
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved ex parte for issuance of writs of sequestration to enforce alleged Louisiana Oil Well Lien Act privileges against defendants' interests in offshore mineral leases and related property.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the statutory pleading requirements for issuance of a writ of sequestration and determined whether the verified complaint and motions alleged adequate and valid grounds supported by specific facts.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown

TOPICS

- replevin
- civil procedure
- oil and gas
- mineral rights
- admiralty

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- admiralty
- oil and gas
- mineral rights
- commercial litigation
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Atlantic Maritime Services satisfied Louisiana's statutory and pleading requirements for issuance of ex parte writs of sequestration.
2. Whether the alleged Louisiana Oil Well Lien Act privileges could be enforced by sequestration against defendants' interests in offshore mineral leases and related property.

HOLDINGS

1. The verified consolidated complaint and ex parte motions satisfied Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure articles 3501 and 3571 because they stated the nature and amount of the claims, alleged specific facts supporting the privileges and sequestration, and showed that defendants had the power to alienate, dispose of, waste, or encumber the property.
2. Atlantic demonstrated entitlement to enforce its alleged Louisiana Oil Well Lien Act privileges by writs of sequestration because it alleged privileges over property covered by the statute and showed that it timely recorded statements of privilege, instituted enforcement actions, and recorded notices of lis pendens.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A writ of sequestration does not effect a transfer of title to the property, but instead, it is a conservatory writ that “intended to preserve property pending the outcome of a judicial proceeding.”” (Legal Standard)

“the privilege created by La. R.S. 9:4861 attaches to all property listed in the statute, regardless of ownership, and requires no contractual relationship between the supplier of labor, service, or equipment and the owner of the lease or equipment.” (Discussion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

From January through July 2020, Atlantic Maritime Services furnished goods, equipment, supplies, and services for drilling wells on two offshore mineral leases. The services were performed under a contract with Fieldwood Energy LLC, the designated operator, which later filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Atlantic alleged that it remained owed \$5,824,743.68 on one lease and \$7,111,706.55 on the other, and sought to enforce Louisiana Oil Well Lien Act privileges against defendants' lease interests and related property.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Atlantic Maritime Services brought consolidated actions against Ecopetrol America, LLC and other interest owners, alleging that it supplied services and equipment for offshore drilling operations and remained unpaid after the designated operator, Fieldwood Energy LLC, filed for bankruptcy. Plaintiff filed a verified consolidated complaint and two ex parte motions for writs of sequestration. The district court granted both motions and directed issuance of the proposed orders and writs.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

CASES CITED

- Grantt Guillory Enters., Inc. v. Quebedeaux, 110 So. 3d 182, 189 (La. App. 3 Cir. 2013)
- Rocket Indus., Inc. v. S. Tire & Supply, Inc., 706 F.2d 561, 563 (5th Cir. 1983)
- Mitchell v. W.T. Grant Co., 416 U.S. 600, 604–07 (1974)
- Express Supply & Steel, No. 23-154, 2023 WL 172045, at *1 (E.D. La. Jan. 12, 2023)
- CEF Funding, LLC v. Huey, No. 09-2978, 2009 WL 10681986, at *2 (E.D. La. June 2, 2009)
- Guichard Drilling Co. v. Alpine Energy Servs., Inc., 657 So. 2d 1307, 1312–13 (La. 1995)

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