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**David Croft to speak at Heckerling Institute**

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By Andrea Lannom - [email](#)

Wheeling attorney David R. Croft has hit a career milestone.

The Spilman, Thomas & Battle estate planning and federal taxation attorney will speak during the Jan. 16 portion of the 47th annual Heckerling Institute, or as he calls it, "the Super Bowl of estate planning."

"It's a big deal," he said. "It is without a doubt the premier event for estate planning."

In their presentation, Croft and Texas attorney Michael V. Bourland explore interests retained by landowners after they enter leases.

They also focus on management and maintenance of mineral interests and the use of tax partnerships and estate planning strategies, a news release from Spilman, Thomas & Battle states.

"It's an interesting comparison with the other speaker who is from Texas, which is used to dealing with oil and gas and used to dealing with the nomenclature of working in interest, royalty interest," Croft said. "We will compare that to our community that is just learning."

"The last thing you want to do is come into some significant cash and not understand the tax burden that comes with it," he added. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. ... Unfortunately, it's going to get worse as the tax goes up. It's going to be very important to plan going forward."

According to the release, Croft is a certified public accountant and regularly consults on oil and gas tax matters.

"David is held in extremely high regard for his broad experience in estate planning and taxation, especially his knowledge of oil and gas issues," Michael J. Basile, managing member of the firm, said in the release. "Our team approach allows us to dissect diverse areas of law to provide creative and beneficial solutions for clients."

The Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning, which takes place Jan. 14-18 in Florida, is the largest gathering for trust officers, accountants, insurance advisors and wealth management professionals.



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