After graduating from the University of Kansas, Mr. Slawson became involved in the exploration, production development and operation of oil and gas properties in Kansas and nine other states. He founded Donald C. Slawson, Oil Producer in 1957. In 1964, he expanded the company to include Slawson Drilling Company, Inc. which owned and operated nine drilling rigs and led to the founding of Inland Crude Purchasing Corporation, Prairie Gas Company and Sunrise Oil Supply Company. In the 1980s, Mr. Slawson was ranked among the top wildcatters in the nation drilling 3000 wells throughout a large section of the United States.