

EBA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The challenges and opportunities facing the energy industry are perhaps unprecedented. The country is confronting substantial changes in fuels, integration of renewable energy sources, infrastructure development and siting, and changes in modes of transportation, all against a backdrop of increasing concern about the environmental impacts of our energy decisions. These challenges and opportunities demand that we energy professionals consistently demonstrate excellence in our craft, collegiality and civility in our interactions, and creativity in our thinking. Working alone, we achieve nothing. Working together, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

The Energy Bar Association (EBA) provides many benefits to its members, but perhaps the greatest benefit is the ability to work together, with talented individuals from all segments of the energy industry, toward common goals. Litigation proceeds more smoothly, settlement discussions are more fruitful, policy compromise becomes easier, and clients are better-served when the energy professionals with whom you are working (or opposing) are also working with you on EBA committee projects, or planning EBA meetings, or collaborating on an EBA Task Force. This “intangible” provides tangible professional benefits.

For more than 70 years, EBA and its predecessors have been committed to promoting excellence in the practice of energy law. The EBA recently had a very successful Mid-Year Meeting, which included our second annual Women In Energy breakfast, and our first annual reception of the LGBT Power group. EBA looks forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting in May 2018.

The EBA Board is working hard on the implementation phase of the 2017 Strategic Plan, with four Board-level Task Forces focusing on:

- Membership Value
- Content Value and Accessibility
- Regional Enhancement
- Leadership and Volunteer Development

The EBA Board has already approved the first Task Force report, and implementation has begun. The remaining Task Force reports will be delivered at the November Board meeting. The outcome of this process will be a stronger, more secure, more diverse, and more influential EBA.

The EBA Board has also approved the charter for a new EBA Louisiana Chapter, authorized changes to make our educational meetings more accessible to Solo and Small Firm Practitioners, approved comprehensive By-Laws changes (subsequently approved by the Membership) to allow Student and Energy Professional members of EBA to become non-voting members of the EBA Board, and, together with the Boards of the Foundation of the Energy Law Journal and the Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association, formally adopted a Diversity Policy that stems from the tireless work of my predecessor Emma Hand and my successor Matt Rudolphi. I commend them for their leadership.

Before signing off, I personally thank Bob Fleishman, the professional editorial board of the Energy Law Journal, the editorial staff at the University of Tulsa Law School, and the entire FELJ Board for their tireless efforts in producing a world-class law journal that has, for decades, helped shape the development of

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energy law. This edition will not disappoint. So, kick back, grab a cup of coffee, and enjoy the read!

Bob Weishaar
President, Energy Bar Association