

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

After publication of this volume, I am stepping down as Editor-In-Chief of the *Energy Law Journal* and turning the reins over to Harvey Reiter.

It has been a good run. I have enjoyed it immensely. It is time.

In this, my last Editor-in-Chief's Page, I will provide some history, present some statistics, describe a special duty, discuss the transition, and offer some closing thoughts.

History

The *ELJ* began publication in 1980 under the auspices of the Federal Energy Bar Association (FEBA). Bill Mogel was the *ELJ*'s first Editor-in-Chief and served for over two decades. Bill announced over 15 years ago that he planned to step down and wanted the Energy Bar Association (renamed in 2000) to appoint a successor. EBA formed a search committee and decided to appoint a new Editor-in-Chief as well as an Executive Editor so that upon the resignation of the next Editor-in-Chief, there would be a smooth transition.

I served on that search committee. We persuaded Clint Vince to take the reins as the next Editor-in-Chief but were unable to find anyone willing to take on the new Executive Editor position. Later in the process, EBA President Barbara Heffernan called and asked if I would be willing to serve as Executive Editor.

Initially, I was reluctant for two reasons. First, there was an unknown (and likely substantial) time commitment. Second, I had started a new job in private law practice for the first time (at Covington & Burling) and was uncertain how I could handle both sets of responsibilities and devote the necessary time to my family and various pro bono endeavors.

Then, I remembered how it felt when I held *ELJ* Vol. 1, No. 1 in my hands as a young FERC lawyer in 1980, and reflected on how much value the *ELJ* provided over the years to the association's members, policymakers, and others. Thereafter, I spoke with my family and employer, got their support, said "yes," and began serving as Executive Editor in 2004.

After Clint Vince resigned as Editor-in-Chief, I succeeded to the Editor-in-Chief position in November 2005.

At that time, I had little to no grey hair.

Statistics

Since 2004, the *ELJ* has published: 181 articles (by close to 280 authors); 154 committee reports; 28 book reviews; 35 student notes or comments; and 11 transcripts of significant EBA panels or speeches. In total, we published over 11,200 pages of new content. This was approximately the same number of pages of new content published in the *ELJ*'s first 23 years.

The materials published addressed a range of domestic (federal and state) and international energy issues. And the *ELJ* branched out to address important matters at the intersection of energy, the environment, and climate change.

A Special Duty

Publishing the In Memoriams for distinguished members of the association is the saddest and most special duty performed by the Editor-In-Chief. Over the years, it has become particularly important because the *ELJ* is the EBA's journal of record. Further, the roles the Editor-in-Chief must perform to carry out this special duty are varied. They include serving as chief consoler and chief psychologist for those who grieve, while striving to illuminate the important and lasting achievements and virtues of EBA's departed luminaries.

This tradition began in the mid-1990s when FEBA Presidents began to recognize publically the passing of distinguished members in the *ELJ*. The first In Memoriams, as we now know them, appeared in the *ELJ* in 1997. Since 2004, sadly, we have published 34 more, including five in this volume.

We remember them.

Transition

I have been planning quietly for this transition for about a year as we replenished our editorial ranks at multiple levels taking into account, among other things, EBA's Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Within the last year, Freddi Greenberg stepped down as our Senior Reports Editor and was replaced by Lois Henry, who served for over six years as a Reports Editor. Stu Conrad stepped down as our Senior Notes Editor and was replaced by Alex Goldberg, a long-time student notes and comments editor and former Tulsa student.

As an indication of the high regard in which the *Journal* is held, last Spring we sent a message to all EBA members seeking new editors. About 20 people sought positions; the quality of applicants was high. We brought on 12 of the 20 as new editors in various roles, established an ELJ Mentor Program, and counseled those not selected how they could gain more experience so they might be selected by the ELJ the next time around or serve EBA in other capacities.

Our relationship with the University of Tulsa College of Law began in 1985. I am pleased to report the relationship is robust, the caliber of the student editors and quality of the student notes are the strongest in memory.

Harvey Reiter has been our Executive Editor, and my wingman, in this endeavor since 2005. I cannot think of a better, more qualified person to serve as Editor-in-Chief. We worked hundreds of hours together and exchanged thousands of emails. I have loved them all. My deepest thanks to Harvey for agreeing to step into this role.

We needed a new Executive Editor who, by our tradition and practice, will serve as Editor-In-Chief after Harvey. I am pleased to report that Caileen (Kat) Gamache will serve as the new Executive Editor. Kat served previously as Administrative Editor for over four years with Harvey and me. She has all the right stuff to serve in this role and I am very pleased Kat has agreed to take this on.

Closing Thoughts

Many years ago, the *ELJ* was described as the association's crown jewel.

Serving as the last FEBA President and first EBA President 20 years ago was an honor and, I believe, impactful. Over the long haul, however, I believe my years as Editor-in-Chief may be the most valuable service I have rendered to the association.

We do not have term limits for any *ELJ* editors. I think that has worked well. That said, it is hard to give up a job - albeit for no pay - that you love.

I believe it is important to show people how to say goodbye in a graceful and respectful manner. That is what I'm trying to do, as best I can.

When Bill Mogel stepped down as Editor-in-Chief in 2004, he wrote the following in the *ELJ*:

"My stewardship of the Journal has been a labor of love. My quarter century of commitment has not been a solitary endeavor. On the contrary, without the support of hundreds of individuals - authors, students, contributors, bar association members, and law schoolteachers - the Journal would have never reached this milestone. For their support, I am most grateful."

I really can't say it any better, other than to also thank you, our readers.

At EBA in November 2005, after assuming the Editor-in-Chief position and becoming the next keeper of the crown jewel, I spoke about the *Energy Law Journal* being a great American institution, like baseball. I recognized two baseball icons - Lou Gehrig and Cal Ripken - who worked hard, played hard, and did their best, day in and day out. I declared that was what I planned to do for the *Journal*.

Since then, I have put in whatever time was necessary to make each article, each committee report, each student note or comment, each book review, and each In Memoriam the very best it could be. I am exceptionally proud that the *Energy Law Journal* is stronger than ever.

Finally, I want to thank the Foundation of the Energy Law Journal and its many leaders and board members for their tremendous support as we endeavored collectively to publish the best product possible and for allowing me to serve as one of the keepers of EBA's crown jewel.

May the proud tradition of excellence continue.

Respectfully,

Bob Fleishman