



To promote professional excellence in the practice of energy law.

EBA Update

Q1-2017

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EBA Interviews Mexican Embassy Minister for Energy Affairs: Provides Analysis of Energy Practices Across the Hemisphere

He is Heavily Engaged in Advancing Energy Ventures Between our Countries



It was a thrill and an honor for your EBA news squad Gary E. Guy and David Martin Connelly (aka "Mike Wallace and Harry Reasoner") to be admitted within the magnificent Embassy of Mexico to the United States on 19th Street, N.W., in our Nation's Capital. The

Embassy's Minister for Energy Affairs, Hector Castro Vizcarra, very graciously greeted us and showed us beautiful displays of his country. This included the flag of Mexico, where we posed for a group photo. He was also generous with his time, allowing us an hour's length interview in his office. This can be viewed in its entirety at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt_sEeeMcBwvBjjQ3NwTbTA. And we have also prepared this account of our

memorable visit with this distinguished official from the neighboring country to our South.

Life-Long World Traveler Picking up Numerous Skills along the Way

A dashing, accomplished statesman in his 30s, he could have stepped out of story-books or from history, as a modern day Marquis de Lafayette. He displays boundless energy and great enthusiasm. (He uses the word "passionate" frequently with great conviction.) Minister Vizcarra is a native of Mexico but his father, a politician, had foreign assignments that caused his son to be raised elsewhere. Plus his schooling took him far and wide. No wonder diplomacy suits him so well.

In addition to spending his teenage years in Seattle, and studying in France, he has been educated in Strategic Political Analysis at Mexico City's Center for Economic Research and Teaching, Political Communication at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and in Government and Political Administration at the Complutense University of Madrid's Ph.D. program.

"I studied law because I wanted to be a politician."

Significantly, he tells us, "I studied law because I wanted to be a politician." His politician-father advised him to attend law school in Mexico City, and that is what he did, earning

his law degree from Escuela Libre de Derecho. While in law school, he also worked for the government. He discovered, “I was passionate about political analysis.”

His first job after becoming a lawyer was at the Electoral Court of the Federal District in Mexico City. From this judicial position, he moved to the Ministry of Health’s Directorate General of Legal Affairs from 2000 to 2006. While there, he worked on the United States/Mexico Border Health Commission. He has also held positions at several prestigious Mexican law firms, published academic papers, and taught, both at his law school *alma mater* and at the Autonomous University of Baja California.

From earliest school days, he had engaged in political activities, including student government as well as representing the Hispanic community when abroad. He was President of the Mexicans in Spain Association in Madrid. And he was a political analyst for a Mexican newspaper. He mixed politics, public administration, and law, all of which pursuits he loved – passionately.
(Article continues on page 15)

President’s Message



Let’s Reinforce Our Core Value of Collegiality

When the EBA Board embarked on an update of the EBA Strategic Plan in 2016, it made a conscious decision not to modify any of EBA’s core values. As a consequence, the following remains a critical element of EBA’s strategic direction:

The Energy Bar Association is Inclusive and Collegial

Evidenced in a dedication to the value of diverse perspectives, dedication to providing opportunities for learning and community in a position neutral organization, and

appreciation of personal and business connections that enhance our members’ professional lives.

I commend outgoing EBA President Emma Hand for an initiative to spotlight diversity and inclusion. That initiative resulted in meaningful, positive, and permanent enhancements to EBA’s approach and has made our organization stronger.

Collegiality is a bedrock EBA principle that, in my opinion, differentiates us from other organizations. It permeates our day-to-day practices. While we are zealous advocates for our clients, experience shows that settlement negotiations tend to proceed more smoothly and trust between parties is greater if opposing counsel recently worked together on a committee report for the *Energy Law Journal*, helped plan an EBA event or served on the Board of the the Charitable Foundation or the Foundation of the Energy Law Journal. Harmonization and reconciliation of differences between state and federal energy policies are more likely to occur if the attorneys and consultants advocating the competing state and federal interests have worked together in some capacity through EBA. EBA – through its chapters, sister organizations, and committees - serves as the forum for collegiality, and with collegiality comes trust and respect.

I have been asked whether a spotlight on collegiality was precipitated by any deterioration of the collegiality that exists among EBA members. The answer is an unequivocal “no” - collegiality among our members remains strong. The spotlight has become necessary, in my view, because the forces that challenge collegiality have become stronger in recent years. The legal

and consulting professions in the energy industry are as fiercely competitive now as they have ever been. Personal communication is increasingly occurring through electronic means – emails, texts, tweets – and less through voice calls and in-person meetings. Political discourse seems to have become increasingly confrontational and decreasingly collaborative. Rapid flows of information have shortened attention spans, and placed a higher premium on the time we spend to build and sustain relationships. These are the trends that could erode our core value of collegiality.

So, with this in mind, I think it is important to spotlight the collegiality that exists among EBA members, that allows us to deliver value and efficiency to our clients, and that enhances the personal satisfaction we derive from practicing energy law and consulting on energy matters.

I look forward to working with the EBA Board and the Professional Education Council to spotlight this core value, as we continue to implement our strategic objectives of enhancing our regional outreach, expanding leadership and volunteer opportunities, strengthening our content value and access, and increasing our membership value.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, the EBA members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Weishaar'.

Bob Weishaar
President, EBA
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC

Executive Director's Message

The Impact of EBA's Annual Meeting Last Long Past Its Final Events

Last month, EBA hosted its 2017 Annual Meeting & Conference. It was a fabulous two-days of events with a record number of some 550 attendees. The strong participation of EBA members and interested energy industry insiders underlines an important message: EBA is impactful to the energy legal and policy communities. The reason is obvious. It is because of you.



Attorneys and energy professionals who are EBA members have enormous influence over the policies, events and trends that guide energy issues inside Washington, throughout the United States and even globally. It is the reason why key policy professionals speak and/or attend our annual and mid-year meetings and why industry media pay close attention to what happens at EBA events. In fact, as you will note in this *EBA Update* edition, 18 news stories were generated by this year's Annual Meeting & Conference.

EBA is valued within the energy industry not just because we provide quality programming but also because we provide invaluable networking opportunities. Annual Meeting attendees understand the value of being seen at these events for they know the interactions they have provide insights to help them navigate the complex world of energy. They even lead to new business opportunities. In addition, these meeting provide essential educational and training opportunities.

Here's the best news of all. EBA does this all year long. Members who know this derive the benefits of membership through event participation and participation as volunteers on committees, councils and chapters. Take advantage of these opportunities and grow the perception among colleagues and industry counterparts of your leadership skills. In the pages that follow, you will learn more about what EBA has done and what it can do for you. I encourage you to take every opportunity EBA provides. And, I look forward to seeing you at EBA's Mid-Year Energy Forum in October.



Lisa A. Levine, CAE
Executive Director

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Bob Weishaar Elected EBA President, New Board Approved



The Energy Bar Association (EBA) has announced the election of Robert A. Weishaar, Jr. as the new president of EBA's 2017-2018 Board of Directors, as well as the selection of new Board officers and members, at its Annual Meeting & Conference on April 3-4, 2017 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. Weishaar is pictured here accepting the post from 2016-2017 EBA President Emma Hand.

"Leading the Energy Bar Association is a great honor for me because I have long-known the quality people and great value associated with the organization," said Weishaar, who is a Member and Chair of the Energy and Environment Group of McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC. "The Board has recently approved a new strategic plan to grow our regional focus, enhance our programming

value, and expand leadership opportunities, and I look forward to spearheading implementation of this vision, while reinforcing EBA's core values, including collegiality and civility."

In addition to electing Weishaar as president, new EBA Board officers include Matthew Rudolphi of Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. as President-elect, Jonathan Schneider of Stinson Leonard Street LLP as Vice President, Carrie Bumgarner of Wright & Talisman, P.C. as Secretary, Paul Breakman of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as Assistant Secretary, Conor Ward of GridLiance as Treasurer and Paula Johnson of Ameren Missouri as Assistant Treasurer.

In addition, the full Board of Directors will include Glenn Camus of Eastern Generation LLC, Adrienne Clair of Thompson Coburn LLP (Ex Officio – ABA Delegate), Jimmy Cline of the Southwest Power Pool, Shannon Coleman of the Colonial Pipeline Company, David Martin Connelly of McGuireWoods LLP, Kimberly Frank of McCarter & English LLP, Larry Gasteiger of PSEG, Amanda James of Sullivan & Ward PC, Justin Moeller of Van Ness Feldman LLP, Delia Patterson of the American Public Power Association, Mosby Perrow of Kinder Morgan, Inc., Sandra Safro of K&L Gates LLP, Daniel Simon of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, and Andrea Wolfman of Alston & Bird LLP. Emma Hand of Dentons US LLP is the Immediate Past President.

“It is important to recognize the contributions of outgoing President Emma Hand,” Weishaar noted. “Under her excellent leadership, EBA has made important gains in promoting diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the organization. My term will include focusing on growing and enhancing this initiative.”

Key Energy Policy Discussions Highlight Energy Bar Association’s Annual Meeting & Conference

Key regulators and policymakers gathered to discuss paradigm changing issues in the energy sector at the Energy Bar Association's Annual Meeting & Conference this week in Washington, DC. Some 550 attendees convened for two-days of panels, training activities and networking opportunities and participated in events such as Trump Energy Transition Team officials' perspectives on key policies the White House is implementing. Another conference panel examined the fate of Obama-era environmental regulations under the new Administration and state-level efforts to expand protections. Other notable events included a luncheon keynote speech by former Obama Administration Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, a roundtable discussion among general counsel of major U.S. utilities, and sessions on competitive markets to achieve carbon reduction, the changing landscape for oil pipeline shippers with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and community solar projects. [Click here to see the extensive media coverage of the meetings.](#)



View more pictures from the 2017 Annual Meeting & Conference events at EBA’s [Flickr](#) page.

EBA NEWS

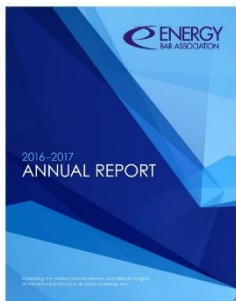
EBA Board Approves New Strategic Plan

Last week, EBA's Board of Directors approved a strategic plan for 2017 through 2020. The new plan seeks to achieve four key goals:

- Build and grow regional focus;
- Optimize membership strategies and model;
- Enhance content value and accessibility of content; and
- Expand participation and leadership opportunities.

These goals are a result of the Board intention to be more responsive, dynamic, inclusive and collegial on behalf of members and prospective members. Specifically, the Board wants to grow regional relationships by coordinating efforts and collaborating more closely with chapters and committees. It seeks to work with chapters and existing members to better engage prospective members, update the onboarding process and evaluate opportunities for corporate membership. The Board also seeks to enhance content value and accessibility through a website redesign and new delivery formats. Finally, the Board seeks to expand participation and leadership opportunities by increasing opportunities to volunteer through chapters and committees, and to do more to recognize volunteer contributions. To see the details of the plan, visit [EBA Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#).

EBA Releases Its 2016-2017 Annual Report



EBA's 2016-2017 Annual Report is now available, both in print and online as a flip book. This year's Annual Report provides an overview of EBA and its activities at the Board, staff and chapter-levels for 2016-2017. Readers of the report may view notes from EBA President Emma Hand, Incoming EBA President Robert Weishaar and EBA Executive Director Lisa Levine. The Annual Report shares the new Strategic Plan recently adopted by EBA's Board of Directors as well annual updates on membership demographics, professional development activities, available information resources, chapter updates and reports from the Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association and the Foundation of the Energy Law Journal. [Read the report now.](#)

Energy Bar Association Approves Diversity & Inclusion Task Force Recommendations

By Jeanette Pablo, EBA member and Acting Deputy Director for Energy Systems, Energy Policy and Systems Analysis, U.S. Department of Energy

The EBA has long held diversity as an important value of our organization. We strive to encourage diversity of thought and inclusion of all points of view in all of our undertakings. This year, the EBA conducted a special Spotlight on Diversity in the Energy Industry, one element of which was to perform a self-examination to assure that EBA is following best practices with respect to Diversity and Inclusion and assuring that our members reap the benefits

of a rich and robust professional organization. One cannot have the diversity of thought that we strive to achieve without also having a diversity of membership and leadership. On March 8, 2017, the EBA Board adopted the recommendations in the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force (D&I) Report. The purpose of the recommendations is to update policies and procedures to reflect EBA's commitment to serving its members by fostering a professional environment where all members can contribute and benefit.

Finalized on February 22, 2017, the report's recommendations included: updating the D&I policy; appointment of a D&I Facilitator to oversee implementation of the D&I Policy; establishing the Champion for Diversity award; increasing video conferencing and recording of CLE sessions; socializing the revised D&I policy in our training materials and website; increasing cross-promotional events with diversity-oriented bar and energy professional associations; and exploration of a Diversity in Leadership Program for implementation in the 2018-2019 program year. Both the FELJ Board and CFEBA Boards approved a motion to accept the Report and take into consideration all of its recommendations. And, like the EBA, they appointed a D&I Facilitator with responsibility for overseeing implementation of the D&I Policy, reporting annually, and recommending further measures to their Boards.

The D&I Task Force was established on June 20, 2016 by EBA President Emma Hand. The Task Force consisted of fourteen members: Matt Rudolphi, Rich Bonnifield, Carrie Bumgarner, Adrienne Clair, Derek Dyson, Bob Fleishman, Amanda James, Paul Mohler, Jeanette Pablo, Delia Patterson, Mosby Perrow, Rick Smead, and Andrea Wolfman. Chaired by Matt Rudolphi, the D&I Task Force was populated by members knowledgeable about EBA, CFEBA, and FELJ. Its members included past presidents, officers, and board members of all three organizations, as well as the Editor-In-Chief of the FELJ, a Primer Dean, a past regional Chapter President, and members of the Professional Education Council. Members were also geographically and professionally diverse.

At the initial meeting, Matt Rudolphi provided an overview of the D&I Task Force objectives: to provide opportunities for professional advancement for diverse professionals and members, and to broaden the opportunity for involvement in EBA, CFEBA, and FELJ. Specifically, the Task Force was asked to review formation and governing documents for the three organizations, to explore whether there are barriers to access or bias to membership that disproportionately impact diverse persons, whether under a traditional definition of diversity or by membership class (lawyers, students, energy professionals); by employment status (law firm, government, non-profit, solo), by geographic location, physical disability, and by practice area; and to review relationships with outside affinity groups, including the American Association of Blacks in Energy, Women's Council on Energy and the Environment, Association of Women in Energy, Asian Americans in Energy, the Environment, and Commerce, Hispanics In Energy, and the National LGBT Bar Association. Following these reviews, the D&I Task Force would develop recommendations to address barriers and bias and improve access to membership and events for energy lawyers and professionals.

Research on the growing diversity in the U.S. and its value to organizations is not new. In its 2000 report, *Does Diversity Make a Difference*, the American Council on Education observed that "the composition of the student population of America's colleges and universities over the past generation is unparalleled in the history of Western higher education" with minorities representing over twenty percent of undergraduates.¹ The report also recognized that diversity was an "essential resource for optimizing teaching and learning." More recently, a 2014 article in *Scientific American*, *How Diversity Makes Us Smarter*, discussed multiple study results demonstrating that socially diverse groups are more innovative than homogenous groups and that "interacting with individuals who are different forces group members to prepare better, to anticipate alternative viewpoints and to expect that reaching consensus will take effort."² Last year, in an article in *Forbes Magazine*, *Is Diversity Good for Business*,

¹ <https://www.aaup.org/NR/rdonlyres/97003B7B-055F-4318-B14A-5336321FB742/0/DIVREP.PDF>

² <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-diversity-makes-us-smarter/>

diversity and inclusion was discussed as a business strategy driven by client needs and the “well-being of their own professionals and their opportunities to find success.”³ Last August, Bloomberg Law featured a perspective article, *Diversity is a Business Imperative for Law Firms*, which viewed diversity as a strategic business imperative for law firms, noting that forty-eight percent of millennials are ethnically diverse compared to twenty eight percent of baby boomers.⁴ The article concludes, “increasingly, clients will be looking to firms that demonstrate that diversity and inclusion are strong core values” and that “firms that successfully pursue and advance this strategy will be more competitive in this increasingly challenging market.” And diversity is good for business -- a study of nearly 22,000 publicly traded companies in 91 countries was released in February 2016 by the Peterson Institute for International Economics and EY and found that for profitable firms, a move from no female leaders to 30 percent representation is associated with a 15 percent increase in the net revenue margin.⁵ There is much to be gained in the pursuit of diversity and inclusion. The D&I Task Force’s work spanned seven months and the final report included thirty recommendations, intended to address barriers and biases in order to encourage and enable participation and engagement by a diverse energy bar and professional population. The proposed recommendations include:

- a revised Diversity and Inclusion Policy;
- proposals specific to each of the Associations and the Chapters; and
- suggestions for ongoing efforts to continue the work of ensuring diverse participation and an inclusive climate in our Associations.

The Value of Diversity and Inclusion

By valuing diversity, EBA brings greater value to its members. A diverse membership provides a wider range of skills, experiences and ideas, contributing to the Associations’ continued success. By embracing diversity, *i.e.*, understanding and appreciating other people’s perspectives, values, strengths and challenges, the EBA can better achieve its missions and potentially attract more members, increase their adaptability to a rapidly changing energy industry, and improve communication. Organizations that cultivate diversity have a clearer view of the world and their surroundings. Diversity and inclusion “are quite simply the right thing to do.”⁶

- a broad definition of what constitutes diversity;

Operating Without a Quorum, FERC Staff Shares Exclusive Insights with EBA Members

Much of the normal business conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) continues unabated according to four senior FERC officials from the Office of General Counsel. Those observations were made during a special EBA event, *Without A Quorum, How Will FERC Operate? Senior FERC Staff Answer Your Questions*, held by webinar on February 22, 2017. The FERC officials included David Morenoff, General Counsel, Larry Greenfield, Associate General Counsel, Jacqueline Holmes,

³

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jpmorganchase/2017/03/24/business-es-bullish-on-america-expectations-on-the-rise-video/#7e850d396635>

⁴ <https://bol.bna.com/diversity-is-a-business-imperative-for-law-firms-perspective/>

⁵ Noland, Moran and Kotschwar, *Is Gender Diversity Profitable? Evidence from a Global Survey*, available at

<https://piie.com/publications/wp/wp16-3.pdf> at p. 16, see also New York Times, *Women in Company Leadership Tied to Stronger Profits, Study Says*, available at

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/10/business/women-in-company-leadership-tied-to-stronger-profits.html?_r=0.

⁶ <http://pwc.blogs.com/ceoinsights/2015/06/five-reasons-why-diversity-and-inclusion-matter.html>

Associate General Counsel, and John Katz, Deputy Associate General Counsel. The webinar was hosted by Dentons US LLP and was moderated by Emma Hand, EBA's President.

With the resignation of FERC Chairman Norman Bay and the announced departure of Commissioner Colette Honorable, the Commission may soon have with only one sitting commissioner and has been operating without a quorum necessary to issue significant orders or make determinations on pending infrastructure projects. On February 3, the Commission vested its staff with additional powers to tide it over until President Donald Trump fills the empty seats with Senate approval. The new delegation allowed staff to continue its regulatory responsibilities and included some additional authority for staff to rule on rate and other filings under the Federal Power Act, Natural Gas Act and Interstate Commerce Act. No delegations could extend beyond 14 days following re-establishment of quorum and actions taken by a delegated authority would be subject to rehearing by commissioners.

The FERC officials noted that while FERC commissioners rule on as many as 1,200 orders annually, FERC staff also issue as many as 5,000 uncontested or non-controversial orders each year. The officials discussed a range of pre-existing delegation authority already vested to staff prior to the Commission's lack of a quorum. These included uncontested hydropower and gas licenses, amendments, surrender applications, transfer applications, motions on extension of time and ruling on inadequate applications. Nor did a lack of a quorum impact FERC emergency functions to protect human safety or property for LNG facilities and hydropower projects.

To access the audio files and power-point, visit <https://dentons.adobeconnect.com/p65ld596g7v/>

Exciting New EBA Programs Providing CLE Credit via Its 24/7 Library

EBA, in partnership with WestLegalEd Center, has developed a library of high quality, self-study EBA [24-7 Library Programs](#) available anytime, online. Many programs provide CLE credit and EBA members receive a discount on all orders. Programs available to you include:

[Without a Quorum, How Will FERC Operate? Senior FERC Staff Answer Your Questions](#)

[FELJ Author Talk: State Constitutional Limitations on the Future of California's Carbon Market](#)

[FERC Led Audits of CIP Cybersecurity Reliability Standards](#)

[Order No. 1000's Five-Year Checkup](#)

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Chapter Updates

Midwest Chapter

Includes IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, ME, OH, OK, SD & WI

The Midwest Chapter celebrated its 20th year as it hosted its Annual Chapter Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 2017. Attendees enjoyed panel discussions on the evolution

and growth of RTOs and ISOs, the challenges of developing multi-state transmission assets, whether integrated distribution generation and renewable energy sources into the grid were a benefit or disruption, and the implications of increased demand from the electric power sector. Ameren, American Transmission Company, Briggs and Morgan, Foley and Lardner LLP, Godfrey Kahn, Husch Blackwell, IceMiller, ITC, Michael Best, McGuireWoods, PerkinsCoie, Polsinelli, Quarles & Brady LLP, Rooney, Rippie & Ratnaswamy, Schiff Hardin, S&W, Troutman Sanders, WhittSturtevant, and Wright & Talisman sponsored the two-day event. Pictured above speaking at the event are Brian Drumm, 2016-2017 Midwest Chapter President.



Southern Chapter

Includes AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA & WV



The Southern Chapter held its annual spring conference as a dual event in Charlotte, NC, and Atlanta, GA, in February 2017. With a theme focused on the new Administration, panelists discussed Donald Trump's rise to power and what his presidency means to the future of clean power. Among the distinguished speakers were former GOP Presidential nominee and Senator Robert Dole, the Honorable Ola Lewis of the North Carolina Superior Court, the Honorable Chuck Eaton of the Georgia Public Service Commission, and the Honorable Edward Finley of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Alston & Bird and the Southeastern Energy Society Conference sponsored the event. (Pictured are attendees at the Southern Chapter's event on the Trump Administration's energy agenda. Sam Brumberg of the Old

Dominion Electric Cooperative is at the podium. At the dais from left to right are Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Eaton, Thomas Pyle of the American Energy Alliance, and Carolyn Smith, a Partner with the law firm of Alston and Bird.

Western Chapter

Includes AK, AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, WA, Alberta, British Columbia, Mexican States of Baja CA & Sonora



(FERC Commissioner Colette Honorable, FERC Chief Judge Carmen Cintron and former FERC Commissioner Tony Clark were among distinguished speakers at Western Chapter events in 2016-2017.)

Electric distribution and customer choice, the future of natural gas, the Energy Imbalance Market and the aftermath of Aliso Canyon were the focus of this year's Western Chapter's annual meeting in February 2017. FERC Chief Judge Carmen Cintron was the keynote speaker. The proceedings included a panel discussion on state regulators' perspectives of emerging energy issues which featured Commissioner Carla Peterman of the California Public Utilities Commission, Commissioner Ann Rendahl of the Washington (state) Utilities and Transportation Commission, Commissioner Jordan White of the Utah Public Service Commission and Commissioner Ann Pongracz of the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. Other distinguished guests included Richard Glick, minority general counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and Sam Arons, Google's lead director of energy procurement.

Welcome to New EBA Members and Congratulations to EBA Ambassadors



EBA wants to extend a warm welcome to new members who joined in December through March:

Joining Houston Chapter

Hua Fang, Black & Veatch
Laura Gibson, Dentons
Kendra Helms
Shereen J. Panahi, George Washington University Law School
Gina Warren, University of Houston Law Center

Joining Midwest Chapter

Mara K Ascherman
Hayden Ballard, Washburn University School of Law
Raymond Oliver Bergmeier
Jason A. Higginbotham, Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy LLP
James Horan, Minnesota Rural Electric Association
Jeffery D. Jeep, Jeep & Blazer, LLC
Sacha Ahmad Kathuria, Midwestern Governors Association
Erica Larson, Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Bryan M. Likins, NiSource Corporate Services
Janet M. McGurk, Exelon
Jennifer S. Moore, MidAmerican Energy Company
Maurice Moss, Southwestern Power Administration
Scott M. Nystrom, FTI Consulting
Olya Petukhova, Foley & Lardner LLP
Jacob R. Phillips, MISO
Brad J. Pope, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Zachary F. Ramirez, Wisconsin Legislative Council
Cari Anne Renlund, Madison Gas and Electric Company
Catherine M. Sabers, Black Hills Corporation
Mrg Simon, Missouri River Energy Services
Audrey Starkebaum Bragg
Jonathan James Tauber, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO)
Kari L. Valley, MISO
Anne Vogel, AEP
Kristina K. Wheeler, Bose McKinney & Evans LLP
John Young, Polsinelli

Joining New Orleans Chapter

Philip R. Dore, Liskow & Lewis

Joining Northeast Chapter

Ronald Colwell, U.S. Department of Energy
Ralph Cuervo-Lorens, Blaney McMurtry LLP
Ewelina Czaplá, LawIQ
Brian W. D'Andrade, Exponent, Inc.
Janice Dean, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Andrew DeVore, Vinson & Elkins LLP
Karen Dildei, Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Christopher Dolan, DLA Piper
Julia Dreyer
Richard Fioravanti, Exponent, Inc.
Hannah Flint, Hunton & Williams LLP
Colin Francis, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Morgan Gerard
Arielle Giordano, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Robert Glover
Sam Greenblatt, Compass Lexecon
Nicholas J. Guidi, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Kimberly A. Harriman, New York Power Authority
Michael G. Henry, Emera Energy
Jeremy Hessler, Department of Justice
Robert Hoaglund, II
Tinya A. Holt, National Fuel
Andrea Hudson Campbell, Van Ness Feldman
Dary Jessome, Emera Energy
Downey Magallanes, U.S. Department of the Interior
Keith Miller, Stikeman Elliott LLP
Kelly Montanaro
Laura T. W. Olive, NERA Economic Consulting
Kimberly L. Osborne, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Bridget Ann O'Toole, The Zoghlin Group, PLLC
Sunita S. Paknikar, Day Pitney LLP
Christopher Randall, Latham & Watkins LLP
Denise M. Ryan, Foster Report
Mark Sciarrotta, Vermont Transco LLC
Jennifer Scro
Prianka P. Sharma, U.S. Small Business Administration
Jennifer B. Shipley, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Boris B. Shkuta
Siobhan Siaca

Joining Southern Chapter

Timothy E. Biller, Hunton & Williams
Roina Rivera Baker, Murchison Law Firm, PLLC
Elizabeth Janna Claassen
Kim Curl, Tennessee Valley Authority
Matthew Dunne
Cody Lee Farmer, Tennessee Valley Authority
Sidney Fowler
Alison Hayes, SPP Regional Entity
Millicent Leigh-Ann Humphrey, Tennessee Valley Authority
Jared E. Mitchem, Tennessee Valley Authority
Christina Reichert, Duke University's Nicholas Institute
Suzanne N. Roberts, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Honorable Eric F. Skrmetta, Louisiana Public Service Commission
Mary Ellen Wimberly, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC

Joining Rocky Mountain Chapter

Lisa V. Perry, Ray Quinney & Nebeker, PC

Joining Western Chapter

Beth Alison Fox, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLC
Brian Cragg, Goodin, MacBride, Squeri & Day, LLP
Laurie Edelstein, Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Dustin Elliott, Morrison & Foerster LLP
Christine J. Hammond, California Public Utilities Commission
Jason P. Hannigan, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
Toni Hoang, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sarah Kozal
Sidney L. Mannheim, California Independent System Operator Corp.
Steven J. Mickelsen, 3Degrees Group, Inc.
John A. Newton, Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Erik Chong Oh, Western State University, College of Law

Joining Northeast Chapter

James Auslander, Beveridge & Diamond PC
Steven Barnett, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Joel Beauvais, Latham & Watkins LLP
Isabella C. Beerli, Concentric Energy Advisors
Lindsay Berkstresser, Post & Schell, P.C.
Jennifer Bruneau, K&L Gates LLP
Karen C. Cleland, The George Washington University Law School

Christine Soares, Cozen O'Connor
Catherine Stanley, Exelon Business Services Company, LLC
Mary Ellen Stefanou, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Frank C. Vlossak, IV, Williams & Jensen
Samuel Taylor Walsh, Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis
Mindy L. Zoghlin, The Zoghlin Group, PLLC
Bill Zuretti

Ann C. Pongracz, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
Frederick Jackson Stoddard, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Tahiya Sultan, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Ryan Thomas, Perkins Coie, LLP
Adrienne L. Thompson, Troutman Sanders LLP
Michael J. Vilbert, The Brattle Group
Scott Whitby, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
Amy C. Yip-Kikugawa, California Public Utilities Commission

EBA also extends congratulations to **EBA Ambassadors** for December through March: Donna Attanasio, Susan Bergles, Annalisa Bloodworth, Kimberly Bolton, Adia Boston-Ogle, Mark Cattrell, Nicholas Cicale, Adrienne Clair, David DeSalle, Christopher Diagnault, Ken Ditzel, Cody Farmer, Vincenzo Franco, The Honorable William Froehlich, Eugene Grace, Kenneth Grant, Emma Hand, David Huard, Kevin Jones, Michael Kessler, Beth Krogel Roads, Catherine McCarthy, Charles Middlekauff, Tom Mullooly, William V. Murchison, Jessica Olson, Steve Porter, Sandra Safro, David Schwartz, Noah Shaw, John Shelk, Dana Shelton, Judge Steven L. Sterner, Paul Tramonte, Christy Walsh, Conor Ward, Andrew Wills, Glenn Zacher and Mindy L. Zoghlin. These EBA members were instrumental in getting new members to join EBA during this period.

EBA Pitches Energy Law to Arizona State University Students



On February 28, EBA members spoke to students at the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University. The talk was sponsored by ASU's Environmental Law Society and Prof. Troy Rule, head of ASU's Program in Law and Sustainability. Thirty students attended and heard about the field of energy law from EBA members Ted Gerarden (FERC, retired), Jill Freret (Pinnacle West), and Matt Derstine (Snell & Wilmer), as well as energy practitioner Christina Bigelow (Arizona Public Service). Using slides prepared by EBA's Young Lawyer's Council, the speakers demonstrated the breadth of opportunities in energy law at the federal, state, and local levels by recounting their paths to energy law and the different areas in which they work. This is the inaugural year for ASU's new downtown Phoenix law school building, and the new facilities are supporting larger classes, more programs, and an increasing diversity of student interests. Many students stayed after the presentation to talk in more depth about energy law, and several indicated an interest in becoming student members of EBA. Pictured are Ted Gerarden (center with bow tie), Jill Freret, Matt Derstine, and Christina Bigelow with Professor Troy Rule and officers of ASU's Environmental Law Society.

FELJ NEWS

FELJ Names Gary Guy as New President and Announces New Board of Directors for 2017-2018

The Foundation of the Energy Law Journal (FELJ) announced the election of Gary Guy of Baltimore Gas & Electric as the new president of FELJ's 2017-2018 Board of Directors, as well as the selection of new Board officers and members. New FELJ Board officers include Linda Walsh of Husch Blackwell LLP as Vice President, Nicholas Pascale of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as Treasurer, and Molly Suda of K&L Gates LLP as Secretary. In addition, the full Board of Directors includes Kristen Connolly McCullough of Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C., Robert (Bob) Fleishman of Morrison & Foerster LLP and Ex Officio - ELJ Editor, Caileen Gamache of Chadbourne & Parke LLP and Ex Officio - Administrative Editor, Lisa Gast of Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. and Ex Officio - Immediate Past President, Jacquelyn Hugee of PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Amanda James of Sullivan & Ward, P.C., Gregory Lawrence of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Jennifer Morrissey of Dentons US LLP, Christopher Nalls of Troutman Sanders LLP, Harvey Reiter of Stinson Leonard Street LLP and Ex Officio - Executive Editor, Matthew Rudolphi of Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. and Ex Officio - President-Elect (EBA), Jonathan Schneider of Stinson Leonard Street LLP and Ex Officio - Vice President (EBA), Noha Sidhom of TPC Energy Fund and Ex Officio - ELJ Business Manager, Stephen Spina of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP and CFEBA Cross Over, Robert Weishaar of McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC and Ex Officio - President (EBA), and Shelly Wong of Sutherland.

Energy Law Journal Hosts Year in Review Student Award Banquet



The Foundation for the Energy Law Journal and the American Bar Association Section on Energy, Environment Resources co-hosted their Year in Review Student Award Banquet on April 13 at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cathleen Day received the Professor Marla Mansfield Award for Outstanding Service. Taylor Moulton received the award for Outstanding Student Paper. The Outstanding 3rd Year Law award went to Adrien Ordonez and the Outstanding 2nd Year Law award went to Ryan Gaddis. The ELJ student Editor in Chief, Chase Snodgrass, was also honored for his service. Pictured are Professor Gary Allison and Tulsa University Law Dean Lyn Entzeroth. Professor Allison is retiring after 44 years at TU Law.

Sneak Peek: *Energy Law Journal* Releases Table of Contents for Upcoming Edition

Volume 38, No. 1, 2017 of the *Energy Law Journal* will be released shortly. *EBA Update* was given a sneak peek at the upcoming listing of articles. It includes *A Straw Man Attack on the Moral Case for Fossil Fuels* by Alex Epstein, *Considering the Public Convenience and Necessity in Pipeline Certificate Cases Under the Natural Gas Act* by Robert Christin, Paul Korman and

Michael Pincus, and a retrospective on the late Robert Nordhaus whose work in the Carter and Clinton Administration's and at Van Ness Feldman LLP has had a major impact on current energy policy and law. [Read the full Table of Contents here.](#)

Energy Law Journal, Excerpts from Past Issues

Ten Years Ago

"The natural gas industry is currently facing short-term and long-term interrelated concerns that can have disastrous consequences on domestic manufacturing competitiveness and consumer benefits: mainly, price spikes and price volatility, lack of adequate basic infrastructure connecting supply with demand, insufficient gas supply and the high vulnerability to a numerous range of hazards (for instance, coordinated terrorist attacks on energy infrastructures, natural disasters – hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, landslides, forest fires – or unintentional human errors)."

William B. Tye and Jose Antonio Garcia, *Who Pays, Who Benefits, and Adequate Investments in Natural Gas Infrastructure*, 28 ELJ 1, 3-4 (2007)

Twenty Years Ago

"Regulators face a quandary. On the one hand, they have received few complaints about the newly deregulated markets. No one knows whether the lack of complaints has occurred because default contracts remain in existence; because small companies don't dare jeopardize their contracts; because the injured don't know they're being hurt (given their confidentiality provisions) or in contrast because these markets really are working competitively. Regulators do know that pipelines are likely to have power in many of their markets and that if they do, they have an incentive to discriminate, to tie products, and to bar entry by a variety of means."

John Burrit McArthur, *Antitrust in the New [De]Regulated Natural Gas Industry*, 18 ELJ 1, 96 (1997)

Thirty Years Ago

"If the FERC were statutorily empowered and philosophically or politically inclined to regulate with a fair hand, from beginning to end, the questions of need for power, prudence of construction, and prudence of purchase for all utilities in the nation, there would probably be no need for the States, in response to FERC decisions to 'equalize' costs, to undertake efforts to shift costs and responsibilities onto utility shareholders in order to protect ratepayers, but that is not the way our federal system of wholesale/retail power regulation is set up, and unless changed by Congress to give the FERC plenary jurisdiction over all these questions under a unified system of national utility regulation, the authors believe the States can, will, and should press for the absorption by utility stockholders of a larger share of the costs and burdens of the nuclear overbuilding debacle of the 1980s."

Walter W. Nixon, III and Dr. Robert E. Johnston, *Nantahala Affirms Narragansett-Whither Pike County?* 8 ELJ 1 (1987)

CFEBA NEWS

CFEBA Names Mark Kalpin as New President, Announces New Board Leadership, and Raises Funds for a Ugandan Village



The Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association (CFEBA) announced the election of Mark C. Kalpin of WilmerHale as the new president of CFEBA's 2017-2018 Board of Directors, as well as the selection of new Board officers and members, at EBA's 2017 Annual Meeting & Conference on April 4 in Washington, DC. New CFEBA Board officers include Donna Attanasio of George Washington University Law School as Vice President, Richard Smeed of RBN Energy LLC as Treasurer, and Donna Byrne of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP as Secretary. In addition, the full Board of Directors includes Harold Bulger of White & Case, Bill Dudley of Xcel Energy, David Hunger of Charles River Associates, Sean Jamieson of Cheniere Energy, Inc., Catherine Krupa of

Eversheds Sutherland, Jessica Lynch of Dentons US LLP, Jay Morrison of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Anjali Patel of Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP, Steven Pincus of PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Bennett Resnik, Matthew Rudolphi of Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. and Ex Officio - President-Elect (EBA), Jane Rueger of White & Case LLP and Ex Officio - Immediate Past President, Jonathan Schneider of Stinson Leonard Street LLP and Ex Officio - Vice President (EBA), Stephen Spina of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP and FELJ Crossover, and Robert Weishaar of McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC and Ex Officio - President (EBA).

At CFEBA's [The Power of Water Gala](#), approximately \$90,000 was raised to fund a life-saving [Innovation Africa](#) (iA) initiative in the Akuyam Village of Uganda. iA is working on a solar water pump and drip irrigation project for the village and CFEBA revenues will ensure ongoing monitoring of the project post-installation. Donations will be used to bring greater economic opportunity, reduce malnutrition and water-borne diseases, and improve the quality of life for 4,600 people. During the Gala, attendees enjoyed the entertainment of Matt Gould and Griffin and following a donations. Pictured from left to right, 2016-2017 CFEBA President Jane Rueger and Innovation Africa CEO Sivan Ya'ari at the Power of Water Gala. presentation by iA CEO Sivan Ya'ari were moved to raise an additional \$43,000 in pledged

EBA Interviews Mexican Embassy Minister for Energy Affairs Continued from Page 2

But there was yet another element thrown into the mix that also fit in quite well with his overall interests. He and his brother had a film production company (and his brother still runs it) that they put to effective political use. They made commercials on behalf of local, state, and even one federal Presidential campaign.

Applying Past Experience in Energy Portfolio

His passion for the mix of politics and policy and law and cinematography all came together with his appointment by Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, a former President of the PRI Party, and Secretary of Energy, to assist in reforming the Constitution with respect to energy based on a new energy model, leading to the Energy Reform of 2013, and then his appointment to his current post in June 2014.

Although this appointment took him away from his inwardly rewarding work bringing education to the poorest sections of Mexico, he seized upon it because he knew that everything he had done, and every interest he pursued, prepared him for this very moment and this very significant role for his country. And that has proven to be true.

Specifically, he finds himself calling upon his vast training in rendering trailblazing services never before required to be exercised on behalf of Mexico. For example, his legal background has been significant in that the new energy model is driven by the reformed Constitution, twenty-five new laws, and even more regulations. His communications background has also been invaluable in diplomatic negotiations, and in working with the private sector, and in communicating at various forums, such as one attended by one of your reporters at the Canadian Embassy, not to mention in this very interview. Other forums where he has explained the new Mexican energy model include the Council of the Americas, Wilson Center, MIT, The Minnesota International Center, and law firm-hosted events. For example, he recently spoke at a law firm about oil and gas and the power sector, with new independent operators replacing the former government-owned monopoly regime, with strengthened regulators.

And he engages with his counterparts at DOE, EIA, etc., all focused on energy policy, as well as being involved in the bilateral agenda with the United States government on energy policies. But before getting further into the Minister's responsibilities, let's look at the big picture for which he has been selected to play such a large role.

Changing a Constitution – Mexican-Style



While Minister Vizcarra's services are associated with the energy initiatives in the Constitutional reforms, it is important to understand that President Enrique Peña

Nieto has launched a reform movement that encompasses far more than that area. The current President has been advancing these reforms since 2013 in order to achieve advances in the economy generally, along with increased accountability and transparency. There are specific antitrust, telecommunications, criminal law, and other reforms all designed to lead to an overall improvement of Mexican society, and it naturally involves energy as well.

As to the latter, a more competitive, transparent, and energy independent country is the overall objective. And, the Minister explains, the genius behind the success of the effort is precisely that it is being done through the highest threshold of consensus-building, *i.e.*, Constitutional amendment. In Mexico, even more so than in the United States, it is extremely hard to revise the Constitution and once it is revised, it is almost guaranteed to remain in effect as revised at least for a long time. That means market players can rely on Mexico's Constitutional changes to provide a significant degree of regulatory certainty and stability.

Here is how Constitutional change, Mexico-style, works:

Mexico has what the Minister believes is likely the biggest Congress in the world, with 628 representatives, 500 Congressmen and 128 Senators. The required quorum to pass a constitutional reform is 2/3s of those 628 legislators PLUS a majority of the local legislative body in each state. "This gives certainty to where we want to go, gives certainty to the investment, the private sector, but most important, I think, it's a model that creates new policies not only for the objectives of increasing production and to lower the electricity rates but also to achieve goals of an environmental-friendly grid." For example, by 2024, the goal is 25 percent clean production. "With this model, we can make it happen."

"It's a model that creates new policies not only for the objectives of increasing production and to lower the electricity rates but also to achieve goals of an environmental-friendly grid. With this model, we can make it happen."

And here is what the new energy world looks like in Mexico based on these reforms:

One of the objectives of the reforms is to have competition so that oil and gas production will increase and so that the electric power sector will have more competitive prices. For example, he recounts that the prices in Mexico were 45 percent higher than in the U.S. before the reforms even with subsidies, and 73 percent higher without subsidies.

In developing the energy reform model, Mexico looked at many countries to see what worked and what did not work elsewhere. Best practices were picked up and implemented from around the world, including aspects that should sound familiar to energy practitioners in the USA.

The 2013 Constitutional reform is not precisely privatization in all respects because everything that is in the subsoil remains the property of the state. However, the reform allows private companies to participate in the upstream, midstream, and downstream oil and gas markets. What was called “Round Zero” was the initial stage, whereby PEMEX chose its investments. “Round One” is where certain areas were opened for bidding. First, the bidding was on shallow water, extraction, and mature fields. Then bidding was extended to deep water. The fourth phase of Round One was recently concluded, resulting in the grant of ten fields, with 33 percent from Europe, 33 percent from Asia, and 25 percent from North America, statistics that the Minister rattled off from memory. The Mexican Energy Regulatory Commission regulates trading of hydrocarbons, oil and petrochemicals, and sets the trading permit criteria.

Also, the electric power sector has a state production enterprise that permits private generation in what is now the first phase of opening up that market. A regulatory energy commission regulates the transmission and distribution service rates. Transmission and distribution will continue to be a strategic area, each with an independent operator.

The grid technology is evolving in Mexico. Under the old regime, “the referee was also a player.” Now, he tells us, “We are in the process of making the grid more competitive on both sides but also publishing new rules setting the new agencies with new personnel. So it has been a challenge.”

“The referee was also a player. We are in the process of making the grid more competitive.”

Cyber security and its threats to grid safety and security are areas of concern. Safety is regulated. The social impact is also regulated. Engagement with the community and land owners is required. Expropriation is disallowed.

This energy model also has checks and balances that were described to us in the interview. The Ministry of Energy sets energy policy, including the role of investment and finance. Transparency and accountability are governed by published contracts and live video of auctions with closed envelope bidding. Protection of human rights and environmental sustainability is safeguarded by a Chapter of the law that contains steps that must be followed in developing an energy project. There is a guaranteed basic supply for lower-income end users. This mandate is implemented through the National Energy Control Center, a decentralized agency that operates the Wholesale Power Market, the entity that manages the power market’s transmission and distribution systems.

Among other safeguards under the law, for any project in an indigenous area, there must be a consultation with the residents. Ownership of land is also regulated by whether there is a lease or a sale, with special provisions for rural property.

And a new environmental agency was created. Climate change is important. Mexico has a law on climate change and it falls under the jurisdiction of the environment ministry but also depends on the energy ministry for its implementation. Certain emissions are being reduced or avoided altogether. Solar and wind are two major new energy sources. An incentive for solar and wind production is provided in the form of a clean energy certificate. Mexico has a policy to switch fuel oil to natural gas both for price reasons and as a clean energy goal. The government quadrupled the budget for innovation.

Mexico participates in international initiatives as well as promulgating domestic initiatives. Mexico also has a trilateral goal with the U.S. and Canada that in 2025 the electricity will be 50 percent clean generation. “Who decides what is clean energy?” he asks rhetorically. “Each country,” he tells us.

He also points out that reliability principles are adhered to across all three borders as part of the integration process. The power sector has eleven interconnections and 50 pipeline interconnections with the U.S. He cited that Mexican imports of natural gas from the U.S. have been increasing by 200 percent since 2000. Mexico is also a net importer of gasoline from the U.S. And the two countries have cooperated on energy efficiency, including methane reduction.

Among the other impressive results pointed to by Mr. Vizcarra is that eleven companies are going to work for the first time in Mexico. Forty-one new power plants have been awarded out of two auctions from 34 new companies from various countries, he adds.

As he describes it, the citizens and the industry players are on a certain path based on constitutional and statutory structures. It is a process that takes time for investment to produce new barrels of production, which will come after the current administration leaves office. But, he maintains, the political risks were taken to reach for long-term advances for the good of the country regardless of who is around when the full rewards are realized.

The Minister's Role in All of This

Once the Constitution was reformed, and implementing and legislation was pending, Minister Vizcarra was asked to work on integrating a regional energy system throughout Mexico, the United States, and Canada. That is his mission



at the Mexican Embassy in Washington.

Minister Vizcarra tells us that his typical activities fall into three categories. First, he continuously communicates with counterparts in whatever joint enterprise the nations are engaged in concerning

energy. This involves high-level energy dialogue and energy initiatives and memorandums of understanding on such things as mapping and sharing of information. He meets with CEOs and executives of governmental affairs of various companies. They include major energy concerns as

well as new companies looking to start out in Mexico. They come from all over the world to break into the new energy markets of Mexico.

Second, he meets with companies interested in investing in Mexico. He is responsive to their needs for information and in facilitating meetings in Mexico. Third, he engages with the diplomatic community. "There has been an intense collaboration not only with the U.S. but also with Canada," he states.

But he still found something lacking; a need to be filled. "When I arrived in Washington," he tells us, "I found that there is a group for everything--a group for trade, agriculture" and so forth, but not a group for energy in general as opposed to a segment of energy. There were advocates for natural gas or LNG but not for energy from a diplomatic perspective. So, a year ago, he created a group called, "Energy Diplomacy." Its first meeting was held in the Embassy of Mexico, where we were conducting the interview.

"When I arrived in Washington, I found there was a group for everything, but not for energy." So he formed it.

They have now held another seven meetings and are represented by twenty-five countries. The various embassy attachés are all interested in U.S. energy policy. The reason the group was created was "precisely to discuss U.S. energy policy." He told Dr. Ernest Moniz about this initiative when he was Secretary of Energy in the Obama Administration. Secretary Moniz accepted his invitation to participate, and there have been discussions on energy innovation, shale gas, and updates on the energy reform.

Looking Ahead

Minister Vizcarra believes that energy is a dynamic industry in that everything is related to energy, and that if you are involved in energy you are naturally adept in many areas. For example, he points to how Secretary of State Tillerson came from the energy sector. So he sees the energy field as a good place to work for anyone who likes to be highly active.

In particular, he states that Mexico is committed to working with Energy Secretary Perry and to continue its bilateral relations not only on energy but other areas as well and regards the United States as a “friend.”

As you can see, Dear Reader, Minister Vizcarra is very passionate for Mexico. He wants to continue to work on

energy as the most interesting area he has been involved in. But, he knows that if there is an opportunity to work for his country in achieving worthy goals in the future in other areas as well, “I will raise my hand.”

We are confident that his hand will be called upon.

Querying the Minister

Impressions of DC: People in DC have a very interesting life story and are very well informed. DC is a revolving door. “Now I think I am a veteran.”

Favorite DC restaurant: Bad Saint, a Filipino restaurant.

Favorite Mexican restaurant in DC: “My house.”

Favorite food: Seafood.

Favorite place: Salzburg, Austria. “It is like a movie with a river and a mountain.”

Favorite vacation spot: Beach.

Favorite way to exercise: Walk and run.

Favorite spectator sport: Politics is favorite sport.

Favorite movie: *Vive*. His brother is making it.

Currently reading: A book about how to make non-violent movements. “We live in a very complicated world right now.”

Prefer to read from books or e-reader: Books.

Wish to be: Politician.

Early bird or night owl: Night owl.

Item to have if placed on a desert island: Knife.

Person most admired: “My parents; the way they were able to form a family and educate us for me is something to admire. From my dad, I got the passion of working for Mexico. From my mom, I got the sense that everything is possible.”

Upcoming EBA Events

May

May 10, 2017 - [2017 NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE](#), Baton Rouge, LA

May 19, 2017 - [2017 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING](#), Denver, CO and Salt Lake City, UT

June

June 1, 2017 - [2017 NORTHEAST CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE](#), Boston, MA

June 15, 2017 -
[EBA ENERGIZER: A LEGAL REVIEW OF STATE INCENTIVES FOR NUCLEAR POWER](#), Washington, DC

October

Save the Date:

October 16-17, 2017 [2017 MID-YEAR ENERGY FORUM](#), Washington, DC

Diversity & Inclusion Policy Statement:

The Energy Bar Association (“EBA”) is committed to the goals of fostering an inclusive and diverse membership and increasing diversity across all levels of the Association. Attorneys and energy professionals in the energy field are welcome to join our ranks, regardless of race, creed, color, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, family and marital status (including pregnancy), family responsibilities, religion, national origin, age, personal appearance, political affiliation, veterans status, disability, source of income (government, solo, corporate, firm practice), or place of residence or business (geographic diversity) and are encouraged to become active participants in the Association’s activities.