

EBA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I rapidly approach the end of my tenure as President of the Energy Bar Association (EBA), I share a few observations about EBA and provide a final update on EBA's many accomplishments over the past year.

EBA benefits greatly from its broad geographical reach and diversity. Since the start of the "EBA Year" in May 2017, EBA Members have gathered under the EBA banner in many locations outside the confines of the Capital Region, including:

- Boston, MA
- Hartford, CT
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Richmond, VA
- Atlanta, GA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Denver, CO
- San Francisco, CA
- Tulsa, OK
- Boulder, CO
- Chicago, IL
- Houston, TX

EBA's geographical diversity contributes to diversity of thought, and provides tremendous opportunity for further growth.

The EBA Officers and Board have been 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 approved final reports from all four Task Forces, and implementation of the many recommendations emanating from the Task Force is well underway. By the time this message reaches you, EBA's new website will be live. EBA's approach for educating Chapter and Committee leaders will have been implemented. EBA's new formal mentorship program will be launched. The Task Force structure will carry over into the new "EBA Year" to facilitate completion of Strategic Plan implementation. The outcome of this involved process will be a stronger, more secure, more diverse, and more influential EBA.

The EBA Nominating Committee recently completed its work. For the first time in EBA history, and as a result of the hard work of the EBA Diversity Committee, the EBA Board will include for the first time an EBA Student Member and an EBA Energy Professional Member. Their input on Board matters will enhance EBA's ability to deliver value to all segments of its diverse membership.

This issue includes a memorial to my friend and fellow FERC law clerk Jason F. Leif, who served as EBA President and Houston Chapter President. In Jason's honor and memory, the EBA Board has approved the establishment of the

Jason F. Leif Award. The Award will recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions to the development of one or more EBA Chapters, as Jason did before, during, and after his tenure as Houston Chapter President. Jason will be the first recipient of the award. Beginning in 2019, the EBA Nominating Committee will seek nominations for the Award. If the Nominating Committee determines that someone is deserving, the nomination will be forward to the EBA Board for approval and the award will be given at the Annual Meeting.

Before signing off, I extend my sincere appreciation to the officers and members of the FELJ Board, and to the students at the University of Tulsa Law School, who work so hard to deliver to you an outstanding law journal. As other editions have, this edition addresses several cutting-edge issues. Enjoy the read!

Bob Weishaar
President, Energy Bar Association