

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring 2021 is a season of big ideas. The Biden administration has announced a \$2 trillion infrastructure plan that includes investment in transmission and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. FERC is pursuing transmission rate incentives and issued a policy statement encouraging organized market operators to propose ways to incorporate state-determined carbon prices in wholesale market prices. States and large corporations alike are setting carbon reduction or carbon neutrality goals to be achieved within the next ten to twenty years. And after one of the most severe threats ever to the electric grid in Texas and parts of the Midwest from Winter Storm Uri, the benefits and drawbacks of capacity markets are once again at the forefront of policy discussion.

The *Energy Law Journal* has always been an incubator for big ideas and this issue is no different. In these pages, you will find articles such as “*Is the Utility Transmission Syndicate Forever?*” by Ari Peskoe, which takes a look at whether FERC’s open access regime has gone far enough to protect customers against the monopoly power of transmission owners — a critical question as the industry considers what kinds of incentives are necessary and appropriate to spur grid development. Likewise, “*MOPR Madness*” is a timely article in which Joshua Macey and Robert Ward argue that the minimum offer price rules employed in several regional transmission organization tariffs to discipline capacity markets have serious flaws. Each of the articles in this issue provides in-depth review and analysis of important issues facing energy practitioners today.

I am particularly grateful to the *Journal* leadership and volunteers for their tireless efforts during this past year, despite the many challenges posed by the pandemic. Editor-in-Chief Harvey Reiter, Executive Editor Caileen Gamache, and Administrative Editor Nicholas Cicale have demonstrated utmost dedication to ensuring that the *Journal* continues to offer the highest caliber, thought-provoking content. They have been supported by the tireless efforts of numerous volunteer editors and student editors from the University of Tulsa College of Law, as well as Professor Robert Butkin as Faculty Advisor to our student editors. I thank everyone for all their hard work!

Sincerely,
/s/ Jane E. Rueger
Jane E. Rueger
President, Energy Bar Association