

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I think often about these words by Dr. King, but much more recently. What is justice, and what constitutes injustice? How is justice connected to freedom, and how do we know when justice has been achieved?

I was pondering these words as I read the review of *Global Energy Justice*, in this edition of *Energy Law Journal*, in which the authors analyze numerous challenges facing the energy industry and apply the work of ancient and contemporary philosophies of justice, equality, and fairness.

My thinking advanced when I visited Ford's Theater in Washington D.C., on the 150th Anniversary of President Lincoln's assassination. I thought about the Civil War's genesis and the level of frustration, anger, and other factors that led to violence, then war. If April 15, 1865, ended differently, how would Lincoln have gone about the supremely difficult work of binding the wounds of a nation divided? How would he have sought justice, after ushering in a birth of freedom for so many Americans?

What would be different today, if anything?

On April 12, Freddie Gray died in Baltimore. Largely peaceful protests ensued, and then, on the day of Mr. Gray's funeral, Baltimore erupted and descended into violence. I was in Baltimore that day poised to attend an Orioles Game at Camden Yards. When I arrived, the gates were shut.

I have a deep connection to Baltimore. I worked there for seventeen years for the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, and later for Constellation Energy. I served as President of the Community Mediation in Baltimore, an organization which provides free mediation services to low-income residents involved in disputes and trained Baltimore Police how to resolve disputes without resorting to violence. I spent a hot summer night in West Baltimore on patrol with the Baltimore Police more than a decade ago as a member of the Baltimore Leadership Program.

On multiple levels, what happened in Baltimore is a tragedy with devastating consequences. It has generated much sadness, fear, anger, debate, political jousting, and finger pointing. We have seen clergy, politicians, mothers, fathers, and concerned citizens rising to the occasion in an attempt to change the direction of what's happening on the ground, as well as the future direction of the city and its people. This is indeed inspiring, and presents a measure of hope. The reasons why the tragedy in Baltimore occurred are multifaceted and well beyond my capacity to explain—particularly in this forum.

What I do believe, however, is that without justice there is no real hope.

But thinking about justice—with respect to challenges in the energy industry or those in our communities, our cities, our nation, and our world—is not enough. We need to do more—all of us—as injustice anywhere is a major threat to justice, freedom, happiness, and prosperity.

Respectfully,

Bob Fleishman