

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this edition of the *Energy Law Journal*, my term as President of the Energy Bar Association (EBA) will have come to an end. During that time, EBA has remained committed to its mission of advancing the professional excellence and ethical integrity of its members. Over the past year, EBA has held numerous educational and networking events throughout the United States and in Canada, which were attended by more than 3,500 people.

Earlier this year, EBA also developed a new strategic plan for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, which will guide its path forward for the next several years. This plan, which was approved by EBA's Board of Directors, lays out four goals, as well as several strategies for accomplishing each goal.

- 1) Continue to make the Energy Bar Association the preeminent association for energy professionals
- 2) Explore the expanding needs of energy lawyers as the practice of law evolves to encompass new disciplines
- 3) Enhance structures that allow EBA to thrive
- 4) Grow the EBA

These goals will look familiar to many longstanding members. The strategic plan reaffirms that EBA's dedication to providing premier energy-related professional education and networking is vital to its future success.

The *Energy Law Journal* remains a critical tool for fulfilling EBA's mission as well, and this edition is no exception. Emma Hand, David Shaffer, Linda Willard, Clarence Hawkes, III, Rebecca Kennedy, and Dena Sholk add to the *Energy Law Journal's* series on energy insecurity, exploring the impact of utility disconnections and shutoffs, including an overview of federal and state laws on the issue. Gwendolyn Savitz discusses the impact of programs intended to encourage renewable resource development on low-income families, and proposes ways to improve equity in the energy transition. Carolyn Elefant describes the challenges posed by the use of generative artificial intelligence by lawyers, offering readers a summary of best practices. Jonathan First and Leigh Anne Faugust explore the evolution of the reliability framework created following the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Scott Gaille and Tanner Harris advocate for ex ante allocation of risk in construction agreement as a means of reducing uncertainty. This edition also includes a transcript of the Energy Bar Association's recent symposium on data centers.

Finally, thank you to the many individuals who have contributed to this edition of the *Energy Law Journal*, including the authors and student editors. Harvey Reiter, Caileen Gamache, and Nicholas Cicale continually provide outstanding leadership. Through all of their efforts, the Energy Bar Association is well positioned to achieve the goals outlined in its new strategic plan.

Sincerely,
Conor B. Ward
President, Energy Bar Association