Editor's Page

Keith Wm. Peluchette
West Virginia University College of Law
EDITOR'S PAGE

Two years ago the West Virginia Law Review embarked on a new course. Perceiving a strong interest for legal commentary in the burgeoning field of energy development, our institution seemed naturally suited to take a relatively new concept among legal journals—an annual special topic issue—and devote it to an energy source that is found in nearly every hill and hollow in West Virginia: coal. At the same time, it was decided that this new annual coal issue should not be limited to the provincial scope that had characterized the publication in the past, but instead would maintain a perspective that was truly nationwide.

After a rather modest beginning, the National Coal Issue truly has come into its own. Now strengthened by a growing national audience and spurred by an enthusiastic new dean, the success of the issue has exceeded the most optimistic of expectations of its original proponents.

This past year we have had representatives at virtually every major coal-related seminar or convention between Denver and Washington, D.C. We have attempted to open the lines of communication between the national coal trade associations, operators, citizen groups, labor, and state and federal regulatory agencies. For technical support, we have established a working relationship with the College of Mineral and Energy Resources here at the University.

During the same period we have brought vigor to the National Coal Issue Advisory Board. We are proud to announce that Mr. Brian McGee of Yegge, Hall, and Evans of Denver, Colorado has joined the Board. His law firm has had major involvement in western coal development, and Mr. McGee is a veteran contributor to the National Coal Issue, having penned an article on federal coal leasing for Volume 80.

As an eastern counterpart to Mr. McGee, we are happy to announce that Mr. Donald Vish of Tarrant, Combs, and Bullitt of Lexington, Kentucky has joined the Advisory Board. Mr. Vish has served as co-chairman of the ALI-ABA course of study on "Legal Issues in the Coal Industry" and serves as adjunct professor of coal law at the University of Kentucky College of Law.

The Review has also recognized that with an increase in the use of coal there arises a legitimate concern for the protection of two other precious resources: the environs in which we live and the miners themselves. Indeed, a scholarly publication that failed
to recognize the duty of providing a voice for these interests would be of doubtful academic integrity.

We are thus pleased to announce that the Advisory Board membership of Mr. Robert Golten, a six-year veteran of the National Wildlife Federation who has participated heavily in the development of controls over the environmental effects of coal mining both in the East and the West, and Mr. Davitt McAteer of the Washington-based Center for Law and Social Policy. Mr. McAteer is one of the country's most distinguished advocates for coal miners' health and safety reform.

Combined with our veteran Advisory Board members, Mr. Thomas J. Whyte of Rose, Schmidt, Dixon, Hoseley, Whyte and Hardesty, Pittsburgh, a founder of the Mining Association and Reclamation Council; Mr. Harrison Combs, General Counsel, United Mine Workers of America; Mr. Paul Bowles of Bowles, McDavid, Graff and Love, Charleston, West Virginia, adjunct professor of Coal, Oil, and Gas Law at the West Virginia University College of Law; and Professor Patrick C. McGinley, for whom no words could describe the value of his instrumental force in the establishment and development of the publication; we are fortunate indeed to have an active Advisory Board comprised of individuals preeminent in their respective fields for guidance in this endeavor.

The benefits of this activity are evident in the pages of this issue and will be obvious in the even brighter years ahead. As the son and grandson of West Virginia coal miners, it is with a humble gratitude that I have given my energies to the National Coal Issue, and on behalf of the Review I hope our readers find that they have been served well.

Keith Wm. Peluchette