Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal

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Editor's Introduction & Front Pages

Piper Hampton

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Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal

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Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the Fourth Edition of Volume Seven of the Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal (ONE-J). This edition includes five articles from the following authors: Dr. Nawzad Yasin, Mr. Michael Atkins, Ms. Jillian Borreson, Ms. Amandeep Kaur, and Mr. Patric Friend. The following synopsis briefly highlights each article.

The Journal considers it an utmost honor to posthumously publish Dr. Nawzad Yasin's dissertation on the implementation of cross-jurisdictional unitization agreements between Iran and Iraq. Yasin obtained his L.L.B. from Salahaddin University College of Law in Erbil, Iraq. After obtaining his LL.B., Yasin received his LL.M. in Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resources Law from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Yasin's dissertation was written in fulfillment of his S.J.D., the highest degree awarded in law, under his supervisor, Professor John S. Lowe, the George W. Hutchison Chair in Energy Law, and Professor of Law at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. Yasin worked on his dissertation through chemotherapy and cancer treatment, earning his S.J.D. a few days before his death. Yasin was the first person from his homeland, the Kurdish Region of Iraq, to earn a doctoral degree in law.

Last year, I had the privilege of assisting our former Editor-in-Chief, Jake Ware, with the publication of a tribute to Yasin authored by Professor Owen Anderson, Distinguished Oil and Gas Scholar at the University of Texas School of Law, and Eugene Kuntz Chair in Oil, Gas, and Natural Resources Emeritus and George Lynn Cross Professor Emeritus at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. In Professor Anderson's tribute, I learned about Yasin's remarkable but short life, his academic accomplishments, and his courageous battle with colon cancer. His story of courage, bravery, and tenacity inspired many in our Journal and beyond. For more on Yasin's life, please consider reading *A Tribute to Nawzad Yasin and Others: Part 1: Nawzad*, published in our Third Edition of Volume Six.¹

I want to personally thank Professor Anderson and Professor Lowe for their contributions and assistance with preparing Yasin's article for publication. It is not every day you get to work with two of the most

^{1.} Owen L. Anderson, A Tribute to Nawzad Yasin and Others: Part 1: Nawzad, 6 OIL & GAS, NAT. RESOURCES & ENERGY J. 361 (2021), https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/onej/vol6/iss3/2.

profound oil and gas scholars in the country. I also thank Professor Anderson for allowing me to personally assist in editing Yasin's dissertation and to complete Yasin's bibliography. Finally, I would also like to thank Jill Nehrkorn, Yasin's widow, for entrusting ONE-J to publish Yasin's dissertation. ONE-J is incredibly privileged to publish Yasin's work, and we appreciate your readership.

ONE-J is also honored to publish articles from Ms. Jillian Borreson and Mr. Michael Atkins. Mr. Atkins graduated from the Notre Dame Law School in 2022 with his Juris Doctorate. Atkins' article provides a detailed synopsis of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the events leading up to its implementation. Atkins' article also delves into the intricacies of the Act and addresses recent judicial concerns in connection with the Act. Ms. Borreson is a 3L at the Texas Tech School of Law in pursuit of obtaining her Juris Doctorate next year. Borreson's article analyzes the implications of Winter Storm Uri in 2021 on the state of Texas' power grid. Borreson's article also provides thorough recommendations on statutory reform to improve the efficiency and reliability of the Texas power grid post-Uri.

In addition to the contributions from outside authors, I am also thrilled to introduce and publish two articles from our 2021-2022 ONE-J candidate class. Ms. Kaur and Mr. Friend joined ONE-J in fall 2021 and served as candidates for membership during their 2L academic year. During their candidacy, each ONE-J candidate spends an academic year researching and writing an article of their own. Kaur and Friend were selected as the highest graded comment and note from the Journal's 2021-2022 editorial board, both of whom were recognized among their peers for such accomplishment at the University of Oklahoma College of Law's Law Review Banquet in April, 2022. Kaur's comment discusses battery storage and the implications associated with integrating storage systems into renewable energy power purchase agreements. Friend's note discusses interstate water disputes and the doctrine equitable apportionment as applied to groundwater over time and under the recent United States Supreme Court Case Mississippi v. Tennessee. Both Kaur and Friend were excellent candidates, whom now are serving on the ONE-J 2022-2023 Editorial Board, and I consider it an incredible privilege to publish their work.

Finally, as I publish my final edition as Editor-in-Chief, I wanted to thank several people for their contributions, support, and guidance along the way. First and foremost, I want to thank Professor Alex Pearl. Professor Pearl began serving as ONE-J's faculty advisor during my candidacy in 2020. Professor Pearl has been immensely helpful to every ONE-J member and serves as an integral component to the Journal's success. Professor Pearl has served as a mentor for many candidates and editors alike, and I

consider myself and the Journal lucky for his leadership. I also want to thank Professor Owen Anderson for his continued assistance and opportunities given to ONE-J. I would also like to thank Michael Waters, Editorial Advisor for all journals at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. As I have mentioned in every preceding introduction, Mr. Waters is indispensable to our Journal, and its success would not be possible, to any degree, without his assistance and guidance.

I would also like to thank my editorial board for their hard work and mentorship over the 2021-2022 ONE-J candidate class. Specifically, I would like to thank Wesley Hazen, ONE-J's managing editor, and Joe Krodel, ONE-J's symposium editor. Hazen played a vital role in the Journal's organization and operation. Krodel was tasked with organizing and facilitating our annual symposium, which was the first in-person event held by ONE-J since 2019. Both editors were recognized as Editors of the Year at our Law Review Banquet, and truly embody characteristics of determination and perseverance.

In sum, it has been an utmost honor to serve as ONE-J's Editor-in-Chief for the 2021-2022 academic year. Though the role was challenging at times, it was absolutely rewarding in immeasurable ways. I look forward to seeing the success of our incoming Editor-in-Chief, Hank Herren, and his editorial board. Thank you to everyone that contributed to ONE-J's success this academic year, and here's to what comes next.

Many thanks,

Piper B. Hampton Editor-In-Chief

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