

Energy Law

Theme Introduction

The SBM Environmental Law Section is pleased to sponsor this issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*, which addresses the rapidly changing area of energy law. The production, distribution, and consumption of energy have always been substantially intertwined with the natural environment. In the past decade, those interested in environmental issues have focused even more attention on energy because of concern over global warming and climate change. This prompted our section to form an Energy Committee and a Sustainability & Climate Change Committee.

In this month's *Journal*, Steven Kohl and Scott Watson provide a primer on electricity transmission terms and issues, including siting and "NIMBY" objections and cost allocation. Richard Manczak and Jeffrey Moss describe incentives that federal and Michigan law currently provide for clean energy and energy-efficiency projects and describe some that are on the near horizon. Susan Topp, vice chair of the Environmental Law Section's Energy Committee, discusses problems and opportunities in hydraulic fracturing of deep shale formations in Michigan. Finally, Rodger Kershner, chair of the section's Energy Committee, and Lisa Babcock discuss how the 2008 Michigan legislation affects regulation of energy production.

Those who wish to learn more about these and other environmental and energy subjects are encouraged to join the Environmental Law Section; visit <http://www.michbar.org/environmental> for more information. ■



Charlie Denton is a partner in the Grand Rapids office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP and an administrator of the firm's Environmental Law Department in Michigan and northern Indiana. He focuses his practice on environmental agency enforcement defense, toxic torts and class-action litigation, brown-fields redevelopment, compliance counseling, insurance coverage, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Charlie is the current chair of the SBM Environmental Law Section and co-chair of the American Bar Association ADR Committee.



Christopher J. Dunskey has practiced environmental law in Michigan and Washington, D.C., for more than 30 years, first with the enforcement office of the Environmental Protection Agency and later as a partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn LLP. He now practices environmental law in Grosse Pointe Farms and serves as an adjunct professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He is the former chair of the Environmental Law Section.



John L. Tatum served as chair of the Environmental Law Section in 2001–2002. His solo practice is focused on environmental mediation and particularly allocation at Superfund and similar sites. He is on the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution's professional roster and the mediator roster for courts in Michigan.