

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP IN VARIOUS ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

1. Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN). The AIPN is very active in the Houston area, very friendly, and very international. Anyone who transacts international energy business joins the AIPN. It has 1400 members from 65 countries representing international oil companies, national oil companies, host government energy ministries, legal and consulting firms and energy analysts. The monthly luncheon meetings in Houston, at the Houston Country Club in Galleria area are on timely topics; plus lots of networking opportunities. Very worthwhile to attend, and in your own backyard.

- Apply @ <http://www.aipn.org/membership/join.asp>
- \$10 plus you must show that you are a registered student at a university. You may need a letter of reference, in which case, use Prof. Weaver after dropping by her office to introduce yourself.
- Benefits:
 - o Monthly AIPN Advisor Newsletter e-mailed to you, containing useful articles and notices of events.
 - o Monthly meetings in Houston. A fancy lunch for just \$10-\$15 at student rate.
 - o Access to Membership Directory
 - o Access to AIPN Model Forms and other AIPN-sponsored research reports. This alone is worth the price. The AIPN forms are recognized as the standard in international energy transactions.
 - o Major conferences & continuing education. Sometimes special student rates, especially for the annual conference held in Texas. Usually, AIPN sponsors two law students from every law school in Texas; students attend without paying registration fee and also receive hotel room at the conference and related expenses.
 - o Resume Service.
 - o Networking opportunities.

2. Energy Bar Association. The EBA focuses on FERC work, the regulation of the gas and power industries in the U.S., and has most of its conferences in the Washington D.C. area. Nonetheless, for a mere \$20, you get an excellent journal, the *Energy L. J.*, and the other listed benefits.

- <http://www.eba-net.org/>
- \$20.
- Register Online at http://www.eba-net.org/attorney_membership.php
- Benefits:
 - o The *Energy Law Journal*
 - o Invitations to meetings, events, continuing education programs and seminars at special membership rates.
 - o The Association Directory listing the names, addresses, phone/fax number and e-mail addresses of members of the energy bar.
 - o Access to Web site Job Bank.
 - o A periodic summary of recent energy-related court opinions.
 - o Invitation to join, free of charge, EBA's Houston Chapter, South Central Chapter (covering Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida), the Midwest

Chapter (covering Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma), East Central Chapter (covering Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Michigan, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia), and the West Chapter (covering California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia).

3. ABA Section on Env't, Energy, & Resources. This ABA section is known as SEER, its acronym. It does not hold many meetings in Houston, but it has an active teleconference program, and again, the low price is worth the cost of the quarterly magazine, which is excellent.

- \$5
- Benefits
 - o Specialized information on environmental, energy, and resources law through annual CLE programs, regional brown bags, teleconferences, and its web site. Law students are welcome to participate in any of these programs at a discounted rate. Law Students also will have access to the [Members Only](#) area of the web site.
 - o Publications - The Section publishes many periodicals on a variety of subjects. Two periodicals that law students receive with their membership are [Natural Resources & Environment](#), its quarterly magazine, and *Trends*, a bi-monthly newsletter. The Section also publishes a variety of books that a student can purchase at a discount. View the publications catalog in [ABA Publishing](#).
 - o Special Discounts - The Section gives discounts to students to attend section CLE conferences.
 - o Networking with some of the top lawyers in the nation in the fields of environment, energy, and resources law. Many of these lawyers attend SEER meetings and are members of Section Leadership. Read the profiles of three such attorneys that are featured in the [ABA Career Counsel Center for Students](#).
 - o The ABA also has an International Law section which costs very little to join. This section lists internships with law firms abroad. (A student spent 6 weeks with a law firm in Mongolia and another 5 weeks with one in Brazil, after finding the opportunities through this ABA section; you have to pay your own airfare, but the law firms arrange housing and a small stipend for living expenses.)
- Apply @ <http://www.abanet.org/members/join/lsdappn.html>

4. State Bar of Texas

- www.texasbar.com
- Join through the Law Student Division. Costs only \$15.
- Students can join the various sections as non-voting members and still participate.
- **Environmental Section:**
 - o <http://www.texenrls.org/>
 - free e-mail discussion list
 - programs and conferences
 - online Texas Environmental Law Journal articles – access for members
 - web-search portals

- If not a member of the Bar but you wish to receive the journal as an associate member, \$20 along with the form available on the site

- ***Oil & Gas & Energy***

- o <http://www.oilgas.org/>
- o The Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas publishes a quarterly Newsletter for all Section members. The Section sponsors three major legal seminars each year: the Advanced Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Course, co-sponsored with the Professional Development Program of the State Bar of Texas; the Annual Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas, and Energy Resources Law Institute; and the Annual Gas and Power Institute. Some of these CLE institutes are co-sponsored with The University of Texas School of Law. There does not appear to be any student discount for the conferences, but if you call and ask, you may very well be able to get a nice discount.
- o Dues are \$35 a year for the section. There is no student discount.

5. Houston Bar Association

You must be licensed to practice law to join, so few benefits are offered to law students. However, the HBA sections on Oil, Gas and Energy Law and on Environmental Law have monthly luncheon talks, often featuring speakers on topics of timely interest, and nonmembers may attend these. The lunch meetings are usually at the Houston Club downtown, and parking adds about \$6 to the cost, which is usually \$30. The Environmental section offers a special discounted lunch price for students (about half price), and this Section helps to sponsor the UHLC's *Environmental & Energy Law and Policy Journal*. This Section really welcomes students. Often, you can arrange to carpool with a professor who is going to the lunch, and thereby avoid parking problems.

The Oil, Gas and Energy Section does not yet provide discounted luncheon rates, but the monthly meetings are on timely topics, with good speakers. For more information, go to <http://www.hba.org/>.

6. Citizen's Environmental Coalition

- <http://www.cechouston.org/>
- CEC is an information clearinghouse and communications network for environmental issues in the Houston / Galveston, Texas, area. It is very useful for both students and attorneys because it provides a weekly e-mailed newsletter that summarizes environmental events and issues in the Houston region. You can subscribe to the newsletter without being a member, and receive it without charge. If you want to join CEC, \$15 Student Memberships are available. Visit the website.
- To subscribe to the weekly newsletter go to <http://www.cechouston.org/newpages/subscriptions.html>