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Chair Message

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As the chairs of the International Environmental and Resources Law Committee (IERLC), Air Quality Committee, and the Section of International Law International Environmental Law Committee (IELC), we are pleased to offer a joint special edition newsletter: Urban Air Pollution.

This newsletter focuses on issues surrounding urban air pollution. The convergence of transportation, industry, and development pressures in urban areas around the world cause air pollution-related health crises that afflict more than half the total current global human population. Although the challenges of dealing with urban air pollution are widely shared, comprehensive and successful approaches to addressing such pollution remain relatively rare. This newsletter touches on legal and technological developments for addressing the air pollution epidemic choking cities around the world.

Author Shannon Martin Dilley first offers an orienting survey of the existing international legal framework for control of particulate matter (PM), one of the categories of urban air pollution most detrimental to human health, including case study snapshots of jurisdictions that have successfully implemented integrated strategies to address PM. N. Lindsay Simmons focuses on the evolving approach of the People’s Republic of China to address the serious air pollution plaguing Chinese cities. The newsletter concludes with Lillian Rafii’s exploration of the confluence of legal, policy, technological, and market drivers for the U.S. state of California’s leading role in the adoption of renewable energy storage infrastructure—a shift with exciting potential to improve urban air quality.

We encourage members to attend and enjoy interesting CLE content and networking with colleagues. SEER continues to provide timely information and assistance to our members to aid them in becoming better lawyers. Please take note that the next Annual (25th) Fall Conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, from October 18 to 21, 2017. Additionally, the ABA Section of International Law Fall 2017 Conference will take place in Miami, Florida, from October 24 to 27, 2017.

Our committees enjoy active participation by members, with quality programs arising from member involvement. If you want to get more involved in any of our committees’ activities, please let our committee chairs know (IERLC—Stephanie Altman at stephanie.l.altman@gmail.com or Shannon Martin Dilley at dilleyshannon@gmail.com; AQC—Elizabeth Hurst at elizahurst@aol.com or Lauran Sturm at Lauran.Sturm@tn.gov; or SIL IELC—Alicia Cate at alicat.intenvlawcomm@gmail.com or Anastasia Telesetsky at atel勘setsky@uidaho.edu). Additional information is available on the committee websites.

Our newsletter editors are always ready to entertain article ideas, and we also welcome periodic guest editors to help put together these newsletters. If you wish to propose an article, please contact our committee newsletter vice chairs (IERLC: Gabriel Monroe at gm62@cornell.edu; AQC: Irene A. Hantman at ihantman@verdantlaw.com, David Loring at dloring@schiffhardin.com, or Rod Johnson at rjohnson@enochkever.com; or SIL IELC: Anna Mance at annamance@gmail.com and Linda Lowson at lmlowson@gmail.com).

Stephanie Altman and Shannon Martin Dilley are co-chairs of the International Environmental and Resources Law Committee. Elizabeth Hurst and Lauran Sturm are co-chairs of the Air Quality Committee. Alicia Cate and Anastasia Telesetsky are co-chairs of the International Environmental Law Committee in the Section of International Law.