

FROM THE CHAIR: REVIEWING OUR MISSION, SCOPE, AND BRAND

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Call me biased, but the Pesticides, Chemical Regulation, and Right-to-Know (PCRRTK) Committee and its members have one of the most interesting and diverse mandates in the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (SEER). PCRRTK has always been home to well-recognized expertise on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and the Emergency Preparedness and Community Right-to-Know Act, statutes critical, if underappreciated, for their role in protecting public health and the environment while encouraging domestic innovation and economic growth.

But today's PCRRTK Committee covers many other cutting-edge and crosscutting issues relating not just to pesticides and chemical substances, but also to the wide variety of products and industries in which they are used. In recent years, the committee has sponsored programs or articles on TSCA reform; California's Green Chemistry Regulation; the Federal Trade Commission's revisions to its Green Marketing Guidelines; the continued tension between FIFRA and the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act; the developing market for greener, more sustainable commercial and consumer products; the tension between principles of the public's right-to-know and intellectual property protections; evolving chemical control policy in the European Union and Asia, and the comparative regulatory worlds of consumer products, oil spill dispersants, and hydraulic fracturing fluids. This topic diversity is no accident—it is a direct result of the committee's core focus: understanding the regulatory framework for the chemical substances that go into consumer, commercial, industrial, and agricultural products.

PCRRTK has traditionally been one of the Section's smaller committees—a fact that provides motivated members with unusual opportunities for leadership and opportunities to interact with the leading experts in the chemical and pesticide bar. But don't let that size fool you. We have been and will continue to be an active and ambitious leader in promoting scholarship, information exchange, and professional networking on issues within our traditional scope, and on the many intersections between pesticide and chemical law and policy and the larger SEER community.

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