

Nomination:

It is my privilege and honor to nominate Michelle Aurzada, Esq., CPL, to be the recipient of the Horizon Award for 2022.

The perspective and passion that Michelle brings to AAPL, and our profession, is unique and inspiring. She is an active member of the AAPL and contributes on the education, accreditation, annual meeting, and NAPE committees and she is a trusted advisor on varying topics to the executive committee. She is active in multiple AAPL accredited programs, mentors new, young, and female land professionals and is a friend to many. She is a successful female trailblazer in an industry of men.

Her unique perspective is provided by her interesting career path, including being a landman, attorney, public school teacher in Texas, police officer in Wyoming and being very involved in politics, including recently chairing the legislative regulatory affairs committee for AAPL. She is dedicated to our industry and a great role model for female land professionals. Michelle earned her juris doctorate mid-career from Texas A&M law school and was immediately drawn into the oil and gas profession.

Attached to this nomination is Michelle's resume. Her accomplishments will continue to impress and her direct impact will be felt for many years, but most importantly her connection with the next generation of female landman is what I hope you will focus on during this process. She will undoubtedly be a great recipient and ambassador for the Horizon Award.

She received the AAPL Presidential Meritorious Award in 2019 and was nominated for Top Women in Energy, by the Denver Business Journal in 2015.

Additional Recommendations:

Michelle exemplifies the spirit and professionalism of a strong female Land professional. Her selfless participation on various committees and outreach both within and outside of the oil and gas industry are often unnoticed or appreciated and recognition is not her goal. She has a sincere attitude and drive to help others and promote the energy sector and establish positive, long-lasting relationships. Her genuine smile and quick wit cannot go unnoticed even when her industry knowledge and experience outshine her contagious personality. – Katie Hynes

Michelle exemplifies determination and fortitude. She works tirelessly in her professional capacities and as a volunteer for the betterment of our industry and profession. Her selfless dedication to AAPL and RMMLF (among other organizations) is a call to action for those that follow as she forges a path for the advancement of those organizations. She is a leader. She is stalwart. She is a beacon of strength not only for female land professionals, but for the industry as a whole. She has assumed a position of respect in an industry that has not always treated women respectfully. She leads where many women and men alike fear to venture. I believe she is worthy of recognition for her contributions to our industry. – Michael A Pisciotte