

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

## 2023 MID-YEAR MEETING

Austin, Texas

### Bios and Headshots



**Matthew J. Agen**  
**Chief Regulatory Counsel, Energy**  
**American Gas Association**

Matthew J. Agen is the Chief Regulatory Counsel, Energy at the American Gas Association. Mr. Agen is an energy attorney with over eighteen years of experience in the private sector and with the federal government. Mr. Agen has extensive experience advising and representing natural gas distribution companies, oil pipelines, natural gas pipelines, and electric utilities in a variety of federal regulatory and transactional matters arising under the Natural Gas Act, Interstate Commerce Act, and Federal Power Act before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). He has additional experience representing clients before U.S. Courts of Appeals, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), other federal agencies, and state commissions. Mr. Agen serves on the Board of Directors for the North American Energy Standards Board and as an Associate Member of the CFTC's Energy and Environmental Markets Advisory Committee. Mr. Agen is a past Chair of the Energy Bar Association's Gas, Oil & Liquids Steering Committee.



**Christy M. Appleby**  
**Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate**  
**Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate**

Ms. Appleby joined the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) in 2000. During her time with the OCA, Ms. Appleby has worked on cases involving electric, natural gas, water/wastewater, and telecommunications utilities before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Ms. Appleby has also participated in related appeals. In recent years, Ms. Appleby has focused on low-income customer issues; consumer issues, including water and electric high bill complaints and reliability issues; and consumer requests for water main extensions. As a part of this work, Ms. Appleby supervises the OCA's Call Center. On behalf of the office, Ms. Appleby also participates in the individual electric and natural gas Universal Services Advisory Committees. Ms. Appleby was also recently named co-chair of the NASUCA Consumer Protection Committee and participates as a member of the NASUCA Gas Committee. Prior to joining the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate, Ms. Appleby interned for two years at MidPenn Legal Services. Ms. Appleby received a B.A. in History and English from Boston College and a J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law at the Pennsylvania State University.



**Chris Ayers**  
**Executive Director**  
**North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff**

Christopher J. Ayers has served as Executive Director of the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff since July 1, 2013 and currently serves as President of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). The Public Staff represents the using and consuming public and investigates electric, gas, water, wastewater, and transportation matters before the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Prior to joining the Public Staff, he practiced law in Raleigh, North Carolina with the law firm of Poyner Spruill LLP from June 2009 to July 2013 and Hunton & Williams LLP from August 2003 to June 2009. He served a two-year term on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission from July 2011 through June 2013.

Mr. Ayers serves on the Consumer Advocates for the PJM States Board of Directors, Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee, Critical Consumer Issues Forum Executive Committee, Financial Research Institute Advisory Board, Keystone Energy Board, New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council, and is Chairman of the State Employees Credit Union Board of Directors.

Mr. Ayers earned his undergraduate degree from Duke University and received his Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of North Carolina. He resides in Apex, North Carolina with his wife Rebecca.



**Kate Ayres**  
**Policy Advocate**  
**Oregon Citizens' Utility Board**

Kate joined CUB as the Policy Advocate in the beginning of 2022. Her work focuses on advocating for ratepayers in legislative implementation at the Oregon PUC and working on increasing protections for low-income customers while connecting and collaborating with stakeholders and coalitions. Prior to joining CUB, Kate worked as a policy organizer with Unite Oregon, and has also served two AmeriCorps terms with Solar Oregon and NeighborWorks Umpqua.

Kate earned a M.Sc from University of Denver in Environmental Policy and Management with a concentration in energy and sustainability and a focus on climate justice. When not at work, she can be found reading fiction, perusing local record and music shops, or out on a walk with her dog, Aoife.



**Eduard Bartholme**  
**Senior Outreach Director on the Broadband Data Task Force**  
**Federal Communications Commission**

Ed serves as Senior Outreach Director on the Broadband Data Task Force, coordinating external engagement with consumers, governmental entities and filers. In this role, he oversees the technical assistance teams for the Broadband Data Collection, ensuring that system users have the support they need to contribute to the collection.

Ed joins the Task Force from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, where he currently serves as a Deputy Bureau Chief. He joined the FCC in 2019 to lead the Commission's education and outreach efforts along with the consumer complaints and inquiries division.

Prior to joining the FCC, Ed spent 10 years as the Executive Director and CEO of Call For Action, Inc. (CFA), an international, non-profit network of hotlines serving consumers and small businesses. At CFA, he was involved in the expansion of the organization to eleven new locations and worked to broaden its network of media affiliate offices to include radio, TV and print outlets. He developed consumer education guides on a wide variety of issues and was frequently interviewed as an expert by local and national media outlets. Additionally, he oversaw volunteer teams at 23 remote offices and spearheaded the redesign of the case management database used by the organization to track consumer complaints.



**Michele Beck**  
**Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services**

Michele Beck has served as Director of the Utah Office of Consumer Services since January 2007. In this position, she represents and advocates on behalf of Utah's residential, small commercial, and irrigator consumers of public utilities. Ms. Beck also represents the end-use sector as a Class 4 representative to the Member Advisory Committee of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC.) Ms. Beck has been a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates since 2009, and is a previous treasurer of that organization. Previous to her work as the consumer advocate in Utah, Ms. Beck worked for over a decade in various positions in the electric industry. Ms. Beck received her undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University, where she studied political science and economics, and pursued graduate studies in applied economics at the University of Minnesota.



**Richard Berkley**  
**Consumer Advocate**  
**Director - Office of Consumer Services**  
**New York Department of Public Service**

Currently, Richard Berkley is the Consumer Advocate and Director of the Office of Consumer Services for New York's Public Service Commission. Prior to this position, he was Executive Director and Counsel for the Public Utility Law Project of New York. Directly prior to that, Berkley was Chief of Staff and Counsel to Senator Kevin L. Parker, Ranking Member of the New York State Senate Committee on Energy and Telecommunications. Prior to his position of Chief of Staff to Senator Parker, he was Director of the Senate Committee on Energy and Telecommunications, Counsel to the Majority Whip, and Director of the Legislative Commission on Science and Technology.

Prior to his work in the State Senate, Berkley was counsel to Assemblyman Richard L. Brodsky, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. He conducted investigations and drafted legislation concerning matters within the Committee's jurisdiction including public authorities, telecommunications, energy regulation, competition policy and deregulation issues. He served as the Assemblyman's Counsel in prudence proceedings, electric and gas rate cases, and

regulatory proceedings affecting telephone, cable, wireless and VoIP carriers. He lead AM Brodsky's investigation of the Con Edison Long Island City and Westchester County blackout of 2006, and represented the Assemblymember in numerous environmental matters including the litigation to force the Indian Point nuclear plant to construct cooling towers.

Mr. Berkley previously worked for the City of New York as its Telecommunications & Cable Franchise Counsel, in matters involving cable franchises, emergency restoration of telecommunication services during the 9/11 crisis, procurement of telecom facilities for the City, wireless public safety matters and information technology contracting.

He received a J.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin, where he was Articles Editor for the Wisconsin International Law Journal. He also worked for the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and for the Center for Public Representation, a public interest law firm. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin Business School, and a variety of other institutions of higher education. He is a member of the New York State and New Jersey bars.



**Eric Borden**  
**Principal Associate**  
**Synapse Energy Economics**

Eric Borden has over ten years of experience in the energy industry and joined Synapse in 2022. From 2015 to 2022, Mr. Borden was a Senior Energy Expert at the Utility Reform Network (TURN) in California. There he served as an expert witness in numerous proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission, providing in-depth analysis to inform policy recommendations on a variety of energy issues, including electric vehicle infrastructure and policy, distributed energy resources, rate design, wildfire safety along with related risk modeling, and General Rate Cases. Prior to his role at TURN, Mr. Borden served as a Senior Energy Analyst at 4Thought Energy, where he conducted financial analyses based on multiple utility tariffs for a distributed generation natural gas combined heat and power firm. He previously consulted at The Kenrich Group, LLC, and CRA International.

Mr. Borden has also conducted energy analysis internationally. In 2012-2013, he was awarded a fellowship from the German government to conduct research on the role of energy storage in the German energy transition and served as a German Chancellor Fellow at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Afterward, he conducted research and wrote a report for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on battery storage.

Mr. Borden holds a B.S. in Finance and a B.A. in Entrepreneurship from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Texas in Austin.



**Kent A. Chandler**  
**Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission**

Kent A. Chandler was appointed to the Public Service Commission by Governor Andy Beshear on July 6, 2020, and designated as Chairman on August 3, 2021. His term expires June 30, 2024. Prior to his appointment, he served as Executive Director of the PSC. Previous to becoming Executive Director, he was an advisor to the commissioners, focusing on federal wholesale gas and electricity markets.

Before coming to the PSC, Chairman Chandler advocated for Kentucky ratepayers as an attorney in the Kentucky Attorney General's Office of Rate Intervention. In that position, he regularly represented consumers before the PSC in electric, gas, water and sewer utility cases and also served on the executive committee of the Consumer Advocates of the PJM States. Chairman Chandler is a member and co-vice chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' electricity committee. He serves on the EPRI advisory council and the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States, and is vice president of the Organization of PJM States. He is a member of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners, where he serves as first vice president. Chairman Chandler, a native of Providence, Kentucky, earned a Bachelor of Science in finance from Murray State University. He received a Juris Doctor from Northern Kentucky University's Salmon P. Chase College of Law. He and his family reside in Georgetown.



**Claire E. Coleman**  
**Consumer Counsel**  
**Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel**

Claire Coleman was nominated by Governor Ned Lamont, effective December 3, 2021, to serve as Consumer Counsel for the State of Connecticut. She was confirmed by the Connecticut Senate in March, 2022.

Coleman formerly served as the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs for the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), where she provided legal and policy advice related to the formulation and implementation of public policy for the State and worked with the Governor's legal team and the Attorney General's Office on litigation and legal matters.

Coleman previously worked as an energy attorney at Save the Sound (formerly Connecticut Fund for the Environment), and as counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee, where she conducted investigations into both private business practices and government programs and regulations, and prepared members of Congress for hearings on many areas of government policy and practice, including energy and environmental regulation. She also worked as a litigation associate at Wiggins and Dana LLP in New Haven and Sullivan and Cromwell LLP in New York, and served as law clerk to the Honorable Ellen Bree Burns, United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Claire is a graduate of Cornell University and Northwestern University School of law. Between college and law school, she served as a Team Leader for the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps. In 2020 the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities honored Claire as a Municipal Champion for her work on emergency COVID-19 pandemic Executive Orders that impacted and supported local governments. The Connecticut Law Tribute recognized Claire with a New Leaders in the Law award in 2016, and she has received several awards for *pro bono* legal work.



**Phil Cork**  
**Water Data Scientist**  
**Environmental Policy Innovation Center**

Phil is a Water Data Scientist at EPIC. His work involves using data-driven solutions to bolster equitable access to clean water and support the EPIC team. Previously, Phil served as a research assistant and data analyst. His projects included building spatial data tools for promoting environmental justice, analyzing racial disparities in drug arrests, and designing predictive models to help students maintain their scholarships. He holds a master's degree in Data

Science for Public Policy from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University, a B.S. in Data Science from the College of Charleston, and a B.S. in Music Industry Studies from Loyola University New Orleans.



**Joe Daniel**  
**Manager, Carbon-Free Electricity**  
**RMI**

Joe is a manager in RMI's Carbon-Free Electricity Practice, leading research and conducting cutting-edge analysis that will facilitate a rapid transition to a carbon-free electricity system. Joe's work focuses on exposing market and policy barriers to the energy transition and finding innovative solutions that will reduce emissions.

Joe began his career in 2005 modeling energy use and fugitive emissions at a petrochemical facility outside of Mobile, Alabama. He went on to work as an engineering consultant at more than 30 oil refineries, natural gas facilities, and power plants. Since 2011, his work has focused on the electric utility industry where he has worked on over 100 utility proceedings across the country and has authored technical comments in response to state, regional, and federal energy policy proposals.

Prior to joining RMI, he was the electricity markets manager at the Union of Concerned Scientists, an analyst for the Beyond Coal Campaign at the Sierra Club, and an associate at Synapse Energy Economics. Joe is an active member of the US Association of Energy Economists and served as a technical advisor to the NARUC-NASEO Joint Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning.

Joe lives in Washington D.C. with his wife and retired greyhound, Nyla. He received his MPA, Environmental Science and Policy, Columbia University and BS, Chemical Engineering, Florida Institute of Technology.



**James Danly**  
**Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

James Danly was nominated Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on February 12, 2020, and confirmed as a Commissioner by the United States Senate on March 12, 2020. Danly served as Chairman of the Federal Regulatory Commission from November 5, 2020 to January 21, 2021.

Danly formerly served as general counsel to FERC. Prior to joining the Commission, he was a member of the energy regulation and litigation group at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP.

Prior to this Danly served as law clerk to Judge Danny Boggs at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth

Circuit. He was a managing director of the Institute for the Study of War, a military think tank in Washington, D.C., and served an International Affairs Fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations. Danly is a former U.S. Army officer who served two tours in Iraq, first with an infantry company in Baghdad and then on staff at Multi-National Force—Iraq, receiving a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Danly earned his juris doctor from Vanderbilt University Law School, and his bachelor's degree from Yale University. He is licensed to practice law before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.



**Sarah Freeman**  
**Commissioner**  
**Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**

Sarah Freeman was appointed by Governor Mike Pence as Commissioner on September 19, 2016, and was most recently reappointed by Governor Eric Holcomb on December 20, 2021. Commissioner Freeman sits on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), is a member of the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, and chairs its Subcommittee on Education and Research. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Universal Service Administrative Company, chairs the MISO Advisory Committee, and is a member of the EPRI Advisory Council. Freeman is also Treasurer of the Mid-American Regulatory Conference and

Immediate Past President of the Organization of MISO States.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Freeman served as a senior staff attorney with the nonpartisan Indiana Legislative Services Agency, where she drafted utility and transportation legislation and served as counsel to numerous legislative committees.

A native Hoosier, Commissioner Freeman earned her undergraduate degrees in psychology, French, and political science from Indiana University – Bloomington and her juris doctor degree from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law.



**Natalie Mims Frick**  
**Electricity Markets and Policy Department**  
**Lawrence Berkeley National Lab**

Natalie Mims Frick is a Deputy Department Leader and Energy Policy Researcher in the Electricity Markets and Policy Department at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Natalie conducts research and manages projects on efficiency and DER technical assistance, policy, program design, implementation, and evaluation.



**Sheri Givens**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Smart Electric Power Alliance**

Sheri Givens joined Smart Electric Power Alliance as president and CEO in November 2022, leading SEPA's work to address the most pressing issues encountered in the transformation to a carbon-free electricity sector. Her professional experience includes nearly twenty years in legal, regulatory, legislative, and external affairs in both the public and private sectors.

Immediately before joining SEPA, she served as vice president and head of U.S. policy and regulatory strategy at National Grid, where she led initiatives supporting the region's vision for an equitable and affordable clean energy transition, net zero planning, and progress, stakeholder engagement, and utility of the future strategy.

Prior to joining National Grid, she consulted on utility consumer education and regulatory policy issues in energy markets nationwide. Sheri is the former governor-appointed Texas utility consumer advocate and served on the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates' Executive Committee and both the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and Texas Reliability Entity's Boards of Directors. She was also an attorney for the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Legislature.

Sheri earned a Bachelor of Arts in government from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center. She currently serves on the Association of Women in Energy and Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships Boards of Directors. She is also serving on her third appointment as a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee.



**Robert Gramlich**  
**Founder and President**  
**Grid Strategies, LLC**

Rob Gramlich is President of Grid Strategies LLC, a consultancy focused on transmission and power market reforms for a low carbon grid. He co-founded Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT Coalition), and the Future Power Markets Forum.

Rob previously oversaw transmission and power market policy for the American Wind Energy Association as SVP and Interim CEO, served as Economic Advisor to FERC Chairman Pat Wood III, and was Senior Economist at PJM Interconnection. Rob has a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree from

UC Berkeley and a BA with Honors in Economics from Colby College.





**Tom Hassenboehler**  
**Partner, Coefficient Group**

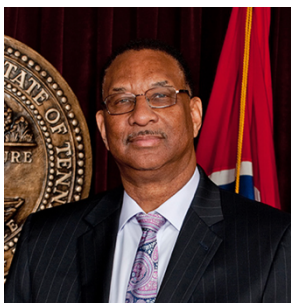
Tom Hassenboehler has a career history of being at the center of many of the major energy and environmental laws and debates of the last decade. He most recently served as the Chief Counsel for Energy and Environment at the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce under Chairman Greg Walden (R-Oregon). Tom brings to the Coefficient team over fifteen years of experience executing successful legislative, business, and communications strategies in senior House, Senate and private sector positions. Tom is the founder and Executive Director of the [Energy Consumer-Market Alignment Project \(EC-MAP\)](#).

During his time in the House, he led and managed the issues and staff under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittees on Energy and Environment. He successfully oversaw bipartisan Committee passage of reauthorizations of several energy and environmental laws, and the launching of the Powering America hearing series, a comprehensive review of emerging issues affecting the nation's electricity markets.

He previously served as Chief Counsel for Energy under Chairman Fred Upton (R-Michigan) where he helped to shepherd through enactment of several legislative initiatives, including oil export reform and critical electric infrastructure protections in the FAST Act. He also often represented the Committee in international bilateral and multi-lateral meetings and Conferences, including multiple delegations related to energy trade, exports and international climate policy.

Before his roles in the U.S. House, he worked in the private sector as the Vice President of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs for America's Natural Gas Alliance, a trade association representing 30 of the nation's largest independent oil and gas producers. While at ANGA, he helped to lead a multi-million-dollar coalition of member company operatives and consultants to advance the market development and use of natural gas as a transportation fuel, while also providing broader natural gas related policy and lobbying efforts on behalf of the member companies.

Tom's earlier experience was in the Senate as Counsel for the Committee on Environment and Public Works under Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma). He focused on Clean Air Act, climate and fuels-related issues while conducting bipartisan oversight and overseeing the confirmation process of several Obama appointees to the EPA. He began his career working on various issues that led to the formation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 for the Energy and Commerce Committee under former Chairman Billy Tauzin (R-Louisiana) and Joe Barton (R-Texas). A native of New Orleans, Tom received both his undergraduate and juris doctorate degrees from Louisiana State University. Tom's proven ability to lead through effective coalition building, bipartisan negotiating, and creative thinking on a range of complex and diverse issues broadly affecting energy and environmental policy helps to provide the Coefficient Group's clients with meaningful and measurable outcomes.



**Herbert H. Hilliard**  
**Chairman**  
**Tennessee Public Utility Commission**

Commissioner Hilliard was appointed to the Tennessee Public Utility Commission in 2012 by Governor Bill Haslam and reappointed in 2023.

Commissioner Hilliard served as Executive Vice President and Chief Government Relations Officer for First Horizon National Corporation. In this role, he was responsible for the corporation's lobbying activities at the federal and state levels. He is a forty-three-year veteran of the company, having joined First Horizon in 1969 after

earning a BBA in Personnel Administration and Industrial Relations from the University of Memphis. Prior to his current role, he was Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer. Hilliard retired from First Horizon National Corporation on September 26, 2012.

Commissioner Hilliard is active in the community, currently serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors of The National Civil Rights Museum. He was Chairman of the Memphis Housing Authority Board from 1992-1993, Chairman of the United Way General Fund Drive in 1987, and Chairman of the Annual NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner in 1988. He is a past member of the Memphis Park Commission, the University of Memphis National Alumni Board, the University of Memphis Foundation Board, and the Boards of Directors for the Chickasaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Courtney K. Hjaltman**  
**Chief Executive and Public Counsel**  
**Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel**

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Courtney Hjaltman to serve as The Chief Executive and Public Counsel for the Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPUC) on December 19, 2022, for a term set to expire February 1, 2023. Abbott reappointed Mrs. Hjaltman for a second term on February 3, 2023, for a term set to expire on February 1, 2025. As the Chief Executive and Public Counsel, Mrs. Hjaltman oversees day-to-day operations and leads OPUC's representation of residential and small commercial consumers in the state's electric, water, wastewater and telecommunication utility industries primarily before the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), State Office of Administration Hearings (SOAH), state courts, and Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

Prior to her appointment, Mrs. Hjaltman served as Deputy Legislative Director for Governor Abbott, where she worked with Members of the Texas Legislature and other stakeholders on various issues which in the 87th Session included legislation to bolster the state's energy market, weatherization requirements, as well as reforms of the ERCOT Board. Mrs. Hjaltman has worked in both the Texas Senate and Texas House working with members on the Senate and House Natural Resource Committees, Senate Select Committee on Water Policy, and House State Affairs.

Mrs. Hjaltman is a proud graduate of The University of Texas at Austin graduating with a BS in Corporate Communications and a BA in Government, and she earned her Juris Doctorate from South Texas College of Law.



**Lon Huber**  
**Senior Vice President, Pricing and Customer Solutions**  
**Duke Energy**

Lon Huber serves as senior vice president of pricing and customer solutions for Duke Energy. With a focus on revenue generation and carbon savings, Lon leads the strategy and delivery of product & service portfolios spanning all customer types. To further meet evolving customer needs, Lon also oversees the development and implementation of innovative rate designs and creative regulated solutions across eight different jurisdictions.

Prior to Duke, Lon worked for state commissions, clean technology companies and consumer advocates across the country as a consultant. Lon has also held various positions in the public and private sectors ranging from economic development to state government and the solar energy industry.

Lon has received numerous awards for his creative solutions to the electricity industry's most pressing issues, including awards from Public Utilities Fortnightly, the top honor from the Energy Storage Association as well as Utility Dive's Innovator of the Year award. Lon is also a regular instructor at FRI's Advanced Rates Seminar at the University of Washington.



**Philip B. Jones**  
**Executive Director**  
**Alliance for Transportation Electrification**

Mr. Jones currently serves as Executive Director of the Alliance for Transportation Electrification (ATE), which is a recently established industry-funded non-profit association. Its goals are to promote activities in the States, especially at the Public Utility Commissions, to promote the acceleration of transportation electrification deployments, a robust utility role, and interoperability and open standards. He also serves as a Board Advisor to Energy Impact Partners (EIP), based in New York City, which is a private equity infrastructure fund comprised of major utility investors that seeks to invest in innovative technology companies focused on the energy sector. He also serves on the non-profit Board of Directors of Climate Solutions, based in Seattle, that advocates for low carbon and clean transportation solutions in Oregon and Washington.

Mr. Jones is concurrently President of Phil Jones Consulting LLC based in Seattle, Washington, that provides expert advice and consulting services for organizations in the fields of energy and utility regulation, and cybersecurity compliance and regulation. He continues work in the areas of reliability and resiliency of electric and gas utilities, the potential development of broader electricity markets to facilitate renewable energy integration, as well as ratemaking and treatment of the increasing number of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), including electric vehicles and related infrastructure in distribution grids.

Mr. Jones served as a Commissioner on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) for 12 years from 2005 to 2017. He served in many leadership positions in NARUC (National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners) during his tenure, which included service on the Board of Directors (and Chair) of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI). Mr. Jones served as President of NARUC for one year in 2012-13 when he made cybersecurity of electric, gas, water distribution systems his Presidential theme and top priority. Mr. Jones also continues to serve (as he did as Commissioner) on the Advisory Council of EPRI, the Electric Power Research Institute, which is the public interest voice to advise the leading electric utilities as it carries out R&D activities. Mr. Jones is a native of Spokane, Washington and graduated with a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Harvard College in 1977.



**David Kolata**  
**Vice President – Policy**  
**Sealed**

David Kolata is VP of Policy for Sealed, a climate tech company on a mission to stop energy waste and electrify all homes. In this position he leads Sealed's legislative and regulatory efforts to help homeowners modernize their homes to be more energy efficient and comfortable

Prior to joining Sealed, David was the Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board, an Illinois-based consumer advocacy organization. Prior to joining CUB,

he was a policy analyst for the Environmental Law & Policy Center, where he focused on transportation and energy issues.

David is a 1991 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He received a master's degree in political science from the University of Toronto in 1993, and a Ph.D. in the same subject from Vanderbilt University in 2003.



**Frank Lacey**  
**President and Founding Principal**  
**Electric Advisors Consulting, LLC**

Frank is one of the leading advanced energy markets consulting firms. Frank is also a member of the board of directors of Atmospheric G2, a weather services firm providing strategic information to customers implementing multi-million dollar business strategies such as energy hedging and other weather-related business decisions. Frank has provided consulting services to several advanced energy management firms, creating over \$400 million in corporate value to his clients through the implementation of beneficial strategies responsive to changing dynamics in competitive energy markets. Frank's unique perspective in bringing finance and regulatory expertise provides his clients with a significant competitive advantage.

Electric Advisors Consulting, LLC was launched in 2015. Continuing his private sector successes, Frank's primary mission is to help companies develop regulatory and business strategies that allow their products and services to be integrated into the existing energy markets. Frank uses his analytic skills and regulatory expertise to provide a data-driven approach to advocacy and regulatory strategy development.

Prior to launching his advisory firm, Frank served on the executive team of Comverge, a demand response provider that split into two companies – Comverge, which serves residential customers and was acquired by Itron; and CPower, which serves business customers and was acquired by LS Power. Before demand response, Frank spent approximately 15 years focused almost exclusively on developing competitive retail electricity and natural gas markets, opening the way for numerous companies to capitalize on new competitive frameworks. Early in his career, Frank was at the forefront of developing trading markets for environmental assets (SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> allowances).

In addition to his AG2 board position, Frank serves on the Kennett Square G&CC board of governors and has previously served on the boards of the Advanced Energy Management Alliance ("AEMA"), Electric Power Supply Association ("EPSA"), the Retail Electric Supply Association ("RESA"), the Smart Energy Power Alliance ("SEPA") and ERCOT, the grid operator in Texas.

Mr. Lacey received his MBA with concentrations in finance and environmental management from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University and his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland. He is married, has three college-aged children and is active in his local community.



**Thad Levar  
Chair,  
Utah Public Service Commission**

Thad was originally appointed to the Public Service Commission of Utah in 2012 and was appointed Commission Chair in 2015. He was reappointed in 2021 by Governor Spencer J. Cox. Since his appointment as Chair the PSC has gone paperless and redesigned its internet presence, streamlined numerous administrative rules and processes, modernized its administration of Utah's Universal Service Fund and Relay program, made substantive updates to Utah's PURPA requirements, implemented a new rate structure for customer generation, initiated investigations into grid modernization and advanced rate design, and established rules for a community renewable energy program.

In addition to his duties at the PSC, Thad provides public service on the Body of State Regulators for the Western Energy Imbalance Market. He is also a member of the Advisory Council to the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University, the Committee on Telecommunications of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission. He has done volunteer work with USAID to provide workshops to international regulators on topics including cross border electricity trading, flexibility of coal generation facilities, and natural gas infrastructure regulation.

Before his appointment to the PSC Thad served as Deputy Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, Director of the Division of Consumer Protection, administrative law judge, and associate general counsel to the Utah Legislature. He was a member of the steering committee for the Governor's Office 2011 Business Regulation Review, a project that resulted in over 300 changes to streamline state government. Before attending law school Thad was a public school teacher in Texas and Arkansas.



**Geoff Marke, PhD  
Chief Economist  
Missouri Office of the Public Counsel**

Geoff Marke, PhD, is the Chief Economist for the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC"). In this position, he manages a technical staff that advocates for Missouri ratepayers in utility regulatory and legislative filings involving electric, gas and water/sewer companies. He has provided expert testimony on a variety of issues including, but not limited to: Renewable Energy, Performance Based Regulation, Lead Service Line Replacements, Stranded Assets, and Integrated Resource Planning. Geoff has been a frequent speaker at NARUC, NASUCA, and the Michigan State's Institute of Public Utilities conferences/seminars. He has also served as a US AID/US Dept. of State/NARUC representative to the countries of Angola, North Macedonia, Georgia, and Indonesia. He is from St. Louis, Missouri and currently resides in Jefferson City, Missouri with his wife (Kathryn), two children (Allison and Walter), two cats (Zipper and Pesto) and loyal dog (Rocket).



**Dr. Yolanda J. McDonald**  
**Assistant Professor in the Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University**  
**Faculty Affiliate, Program in Climate and Environmental Studies, Vanderbilt University**

Dr. McDonald's research draws on geography, sociology, public health, public policy, and data science to conduct interdisciplinary research to explore how structural social determinants of health influence the built environment and health inequities. She founded the [Vanderbilt University Drinking Water Justice Lab](#) (DWJL) to create critical spatial data to assess drinking water injustice and health outcomes at the county and community levels. The DWJL, in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Health, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Tennessee Association of Utility, constructed a geospatial database of the service area boundary of Tennessee community water systems and a state-wide survey to assess the drinking water industry sector front-line employees' perceptions of their water system technical, managerial, and financial capacity. Dr. McDonald is passionate about mentoring students and providing them with experiential learning opportunities to deepen their understanding of the value of applied research.



**Blaise Michna**  
**Public Utilities Engineer**  
**North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff**

Blaise Michna serves as the chair of NASUCA's natural gas committee and currently works as a Public Utilities Engineer for the North Carolina Utilities Commission's Public Staff. Blaise joined the Public Staff in 2022 after working in Detroit, Michigan for DTE Electric's Energy Supply division for the 7 years prior. In that role, Blaise executed fuel supply strategies for fossil fuel generation plants: purchasing coal, natural gas, and fuel oil commodities, planning the delivery and storage of the generation fleet's fuel supply, and developing unit dispatch strategies. Blaise is an Electrical Engineer through and through, receiving Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Wayne State University and Pennsylvania State University respectively.



**Marc Nichol**  
**Senior Director, New Reactors**  
**Nuclear Energy Institute**

Marc Nichol joined Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) in 2011 and is the Senior Director of New Reactors. In this role, he leads industry's efforts to improve the policy, regulatory, and business environment for new and advanced reactors.

Marc has previously worked for Duke Energy, Toshiba America Nuclear Energy and Transnuclear, in the areas of used nuclear fuel management, operations and new plant projects.

Marc holds degrees in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue University and the University of California Berkeley, and an MBA from the University of North Carolina.



**Joseph Pereira**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Counsel**

Joseph is the Deputy Director of the Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate where he oversees office operations, strategy, and outreach to the state's utility consumers. Previous to this role, Joseph served as Regulatory Director for the Citizen's Utility Board of Minnesota. Joseph served as an Director at the Colorado Energy Office in the Office of Governor John W. Hickenlooper. In his role, he oversaw regulatory and governmental affairs, policy development and implementation, program administration and initiative launch related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Joseph led the office's efforts related to creating access pathways for all Coloradans to access renewable energy and ensure their homes are efficient and comfortable. He served as a Governor appointed commissioner to the Colorado Commission on Low-Income Energy Assistance. He also served on the executive board of the National Association for State Community Service Programs. Currently, he serves on the U.S. State Department's Clean Energy Finance Task Force working to assist the Indian government in meeting its renewable energy goals.

Joseph received his bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University and conducted his graduate work at the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware. He has also obtained regulatory focused education at the Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University.



**Leslie Rich, CFA**  
**Senior Consultant, Loan Programs Office**  
**U.S. Department of Energy**

Following a multi decade career on Wall Street working for major financial institutions as an equity research analyst covering the electric utility sector, Leslie Rich is now a consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office. In this capacity, Ms. Rich supports the design and implementation of new loan authorities including the \$250 billion Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment program. She also assists in outreach and business development to finance technologies and infrastructure projects that enable the energy transition.

Additionally, Ms. Rich is a lecturer at Columbia University's School of Professional Studies teaching *Financing the Clean Energy Economy* as part of the graduate program in Sustainability Management. For close to 30 years, Ms. Rich worked at JP Morgan Asset Management, Bank of America/Columbia Management, and Neuberger Berman as an equity research analyst. While at JP Morgan Asset Management, Ms. Rich served as the leader of the global utility sector from 2016 – 2022 and was a member of the U.S. Proxy Committee voting on governance issues at companies across sectors. Ms. Rich has been on the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) since 2018. She regularly speaks at industry conferences on topics including ESG, utility capital allocation, and decarbonization strategies. Ms. Rich holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston College in addition to the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.



**Alejandro Roark**  
**Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau**  
**Federal Communications Commission**

Alejandro Roark is the Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. Previously, Mr. Roark served as the Executive Director for HTTP, a CEO Roundtable of national Latino civil rights organizations working in partnership to promote access, adoption, and the full utilization of technology and telecommunications resources by the Latino community across the United States. Under his leadership he established HTTP's Digital Inclusion Summit, becoming the premier national convening of multicultural tech policy leaders and digital inclusive advocates nationwide. Prior to his position with HTTP, Mr.

Roark led the digital equity and consumer education efforts for LULAC National – including the establishment of the LULAC's Tech Luncheon and the production of its regional Latino Tech Summit.



**Jim Robb**  
**President and CEO**  
**North American Electric Reliability Corporation**

James (Jim) B. Robb assumed the role of NERC's president and CEO in April 2018. Robb oversees NERC's mission of assuring the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system. As president and CEO, Robb leads the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) responsible for key programs, including those programs focused on development of mandatory NERC Reliability Standards, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, situational awareness, event and risk analysis, reliability assessments and forecasting, and cyber and physical security, affecting approximately 1,400 bulk power

system users, owners, and operators. He is also responsible for the performance of the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) and key government partnerships.

As CEO, he is the chair of the ERO Enterprise Executive Committee, which oversees the operations of the six Regional Entities that support the reliability mission across North America. Robb joined the ERO Enterprise in 2013 when he was appointed the president and CEO of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), the Regional Entity serving the Western Interconnection.

Robb has more than 35 years of experience in the energy sector as an engineer, consultant, and senior executive. Prior to becoming WECC's CEO, he held three major leadership roles in the industry as senior vice president at Northeast Utilities (now Eversource Energy); senior vice president at Reliant Energy (now part of NRG Energy); and partner at McKinsey & Company. During his 15-year career at McKinsey, he worked closely with prominent electric power companies in California, western Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and the Rocky Mountain states and served clients in Western Europe, South America, and New Zealand. He has been a frequent speaker at industry events on the evolution of the electric power system, cyber security, integration of variable generation, and the increasing interdependency of electric and natural gas reliability.

Robb is a member of the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) and serves on the United States Energy Association Board as well as a NERC trustee. In 2020, he was appointed chair of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Energy Systems for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. He has served on the boards of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut, the Houston Symphony, the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, and as a policy advisor to the Bay Area Economic Forum in San Francisco.



Robb earned a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University in Indiana and a master's degree in Business Administration from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.



**Evelyn R. Robinson**  
**Managing Partner – State Government Affairs**  
**PJM Interconnect**

Evelyn Robinson develops and maintains effective relationships with consumer advocates and public interest groups in the PJM region. As such, she is the primary point of contact for organizations such as the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, OPSI, CAPS and all Consumer Advocates.

Robinson has forged a working relationship with the consumer advocates, environmental organizations and public interest groups to ensure they are effectively apprised of issues and developments affecting end-use customers within the PJM footprint.

Prior to joining PJM, Robinson was manager – Government Affairs with Green Mountain Energy Company. She led the regulatory effort as Green Mountain successfully provided cleaner energy to NOPEC, the largest governmental aggregation in the country at that time.

Robinson began her career in the utilities industry with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC). She served as assistant consumers' counsel for almost 17 years, where she represented residential utility consumers before state and federal regulatory agencies and the courts. Robinson is most proud of her opportunity to argue before the Ohio Supreme Court while at OCC.

Robinson earned her Bachelor of Science from the University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL. She earned her Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University College of Law. Robinson is a member of the National Bar Association, the Columbus Bar Association, and the American Association of Blacks in Energy. Robinson also serves on the Board of Advisors for the Institute for Regulatory Policy Studies at Illinois State University, and the Advisory Committee for the Energy Executive Course at the University of Idaho.



**Dan Scripps**  
**Chair**  
**Michigan Public Service Commission**

Dan Scripps was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan Public Service Commission in February 2019 and named Chair in July 2020. As a Commissioner, Mr. Scripps has been an active participant in multiple state energy advisory groups, including the Michigan Council on Climate Solutions, the Upper Peninsula Energy Task Force, the Michigan Dam Safety

Task Force, and an Interdepartmental Workgroup on Propane Security.

Chair Scripps currently serves as president of both the Organization of MISO States and the Mid-America Regulatory Conference. He previously chaired the Regional Expansion Criteria and Benefits Working Group for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), helping to develop consensus around cost allocation for the largest-ever portfolio of electric transmission projects in U.S. history.

Mr. Scripps is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and serves on the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission and the Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency. He is a member of NARUC's Committees on Critical Infrastructure, Gas, and International Relations, and the Washington Action Program. He's also been an active participant with NARUC's international programs, participating in regulatory engagements on four continents.

Mr. Scripps previously served in the Michigan House of Representatives, where he chaired the Banking and Financial Services committee and served on committees dealing with energy, telecommunications, and environmental protection. He has also worked with state and national clean energy trade and philanthropic organizations and practiced law in the Washington D.C. office of a leading global law firm, where he advised regulated utilities, project developers, and financial institutions on cutting edge domestic and international energy projects. Mr. Scripps is a graduate of Alma College and the University of Michigan Law School. He lives with his family in northern Michigan.



**Corey Singletary**  
**Director, Regulatory Affairs**  
**Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin (CUB),**

CUB is an independent, non-profit organization that serves as the Wisconsin's residential and small business consumer advocate on public utility issues. In addition to leading CUB's regulatory efforts, Corey is also an expert in utility cost allocation and rate design, having testified in over 80 cases before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Prior to joining CUB in 2017, Corey was employed by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin as an energy policy advisor and utility rate analyst. During his time with the PSCW, his work focused on electric and natural gas utility rate design and cost-of-service, as well as a number of policy issues such as smart grid technology, innovative rate design, rate-based energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response programs, and distributed energy resources. Corey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He also holds a Master's Degree in international public affairs and a Graduate Certificate in energy analysis and policy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.



**Tracy Smetana**  
**Energy Affordability Section Director**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**

Tracy Smetana oversees Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, Telecommunications Access Minnesota Program, and residential Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) rebate programs. In addition, she teaches Public Administration Foundations at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul. Tracy has extensive experience working with public programs, including Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, Telephone Discount Program, utility regulation, and employment and training programs for public assistance recipients. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Saint Thomas and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from Metropolitan State University. In her free time, Tracy enjoys traveling, scrapbooking, and gardening.

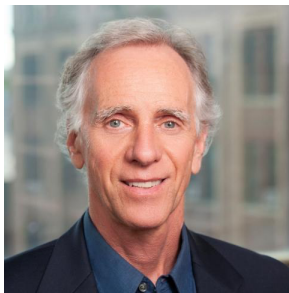


**Mark Toney**  
**Executive Director**  
**The Utility Reform Network (TURN)**

As executive director since 2008, Mark aligns the TURN legal, organizing, legislative and communication staff to fight for affordable, sustainable and safe energy, broadband and phone service for all California residents, with a special focus on low-income households, communities of color, immigrants, and rural communities.

Mark was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the California State Bar, and serves on the boards of ACLU Northern California, National Whistleblower Center, and California Shakespeare Theatre.

Mark served as executive director of Center for Third World Organizing for four years, and for Direct Action for Rights & Equality for eight years. He holds a B.A. from Brown University, a Sociology Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, and his leadership has been recognized as a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow, National Science Foundation Fellow, Mother Jones *Heroes for Hard Times*.



**Tim Woolf**  
**Senior Vice President, Consulting**  
**Synapse Energy Economics**

Tim Woolf has more than 30 years of experience analyzing technical and economic aspects of energy and environmental issues. Before returning to Synapse in 2011, he served four years as a commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU), where he played a leading role in developing the Commonwealth's aggressive clean energy policies.

Mr. Woolf's primary areas of focus include electricity industry regulation and planning, energy efficiency program design and policy analysis, technical and economic analyses of electricity systems, renewable resource technologies and policies, clean air regulations and policies, and many aspects of consumer and environmental protection.

During his tenure as a commissioner at the Massachusetts DPU (2007 to 2011), he oversaw a dramatic expansion of ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs, the implementation of decoupled rates for electric and gas companies, the promulgation of net metering regulations, an assessment of smart grid pilot programs, and the review of long-term contracts for renewable energy. He also served as the President of the New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners from 2009 to 2010, a board member on the Energy Facilities Siting Board from 2007 to 2010, and a co-chair on the Utility Motivation Work Group of the State Energy Efficiency Action Network from 2009 to 2010.

A large portion of Mr. Woolf's career has been dedicated to the review and development of energy efficiency programs and regulatory policies. His current work encompasses all aspects of energy efficiency program planning and implementation, including program design, avoided cost analyses, cost-benefit analyses, cost recovery, decoupling, utility performance incentives, integrated resource planning, and other relevant regulatory policies.

Mr. Woolf has reviewed and critiqued utility energy efficiency programs and policies in more than a dozen states and Canadian provinces—including Arkansas, British Columbia, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, Québec, and Vermont—and has led several national and regional studies addressing

energy efficiency program and policy issues. He is currently the lead technical advisor for the National Efficiency Screening Coalition, and he recently co-chaired a working group to prepare a study addressing the cost-effectiveness of demand response programs around the country on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Mr. Woolf has testified as an expert witness in more than 35 state regulatory proceedings and has authored more than 60 reports on electricity industry regulation and restructuring. He represents clients in collaboratives, task forces, and settlement negotiations, and has published articles on electric utility regulation in *Energy Policy*, *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, *The Electricity Journal*, *Local Environment*, *Utilities Policy*, *Energy and Environment*, and *The Review of European Community and Environmental Law*. Mr. Woolf holds an MBA from Boston University, a Diploma in Economics from the London School of Economics, and a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a BA in English from Tufts University.