

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2023 ANNUAL MEETING Charlotte, North Carolina Bios and Headshots



Paul Alvarez
President, Wire Group

Paul Alvarez leads the Wired Group, a boutique consultancy focused on representing consumer, business, and environmental advocates in distribution utility proceedings. The Wired Group helps reduce the cost of the energy transition by challenging utility grid investment and operating plans; improving grid investment plan development processes; advancing utility performance accountability; and advocating for regulatory and ratemaking practices that optimize the balance between customer, shareholder, and environmental interests. Paul has represented NASUCA members before utility regulators in CA, HI, IL, KY, MA, MD, NH, NJ, OH, OK, and WA; environmental advocates in NC, PA, SC, and VA; and business advocates in IN and MI. He has over 20 years' experience in the distribution utility industry, including the better part of a decade at Xcel Energy, and has undergraduate and graduate business degrees from Indiana and Northwestern Universities, respectively.



Elizabeth Anderson
Chief of the Energy and Telecommunications Division
Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell

As Division Chief, Liz oversees ETD's ratepayer advocacy at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, ISO-New England, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and in various state and federal stakeholder working groups, councils, and commissions. ETD also pursues consumer protection enforcement matters against retail electric suppliers and advocates, in various venues, for additional transparency and regulatory oversight of the individual residential electric supply market. Liz currently serves as Chair of the Coordinating Committee for ISO-New England's Consumer Liaison Group (CLG). Prior to her current role, Liz was an associate at the law firm Rich May, P.C., where she represented gas and electric distribution companies and municipal aggregators on matters related to energy efficiency. Liz began her legal career in 2013 as an Energy Fellow in ETD, and subsequently worked in ETD for several years as an Assistant Attorney General, advocating for consumers in a wide range of matters concerning gas and electricity regulation, including base distribution rate cases, grid modernization, and the ratemaking impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Liz is a graduate of New England School of Law in Boston, MA and received her B.A. in History from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA.



Chris Ayers
Executive Director
North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff

Christopher J. Ayers serves as Executive Director of the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff, a position he has held since July 1, 2013. 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 firms of Poyner Spruill LLP and Hunton & Williams LLP, focusing on utilities regulation, environmental, regulatory compliance, zoning and land use, and administrative law.

Mr. Ayers serves as President of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). He is Chair of the Financial Research Institute Advisory Board and also serves on the Consumer Advocates for the PJM States Board of Directors, Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee, Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council, Critical Consumer Issues Forum Executive Committee, Keystone Energy Board, New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council, and is Past Chair of the State Employees Credit Union Board of Directors. He has previously served a two-year term on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.

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.



Andrew Bateman
Deputy Executive Director
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Andrew joined the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff in 2014. Andrew is a native of Greenville, South Carolina, and is a graduate of Clemson University where he earned a B.A. in Biology with a minor in Environmental Policy in December of 2009. Andrew holds a juris doctorate degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He has 10 years of experience practicing law in South Carolina. Prior to joining the Office of Regulatory Staff, he was an attorney with the Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina. Andrew and his wife reside in Columbia with their four children.



Patrick M. Cicero, Esquire
Consumer Advocate
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

Patrick was appointed as Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate by Attorney General Josh Shapiro on December 13, 2021 and was confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on June 7, 2022. [The Office of Consumer Advocate \(OCA\)](#) is a state agency that represents the interests of Pennsylvania utility consumers before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, federal regulatory agencies, and state and federal courts. The OCA was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1976 and is an independent office within the Office of Attorney General.

Immediately prior to his tenure as Consumer Advocate, Patrick served as the Executive Director of the [Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.](#), (PLAN, Inc.) where he provided strategic leadership and direction to PLAN, Inc.'s activities and oversaw the advocacy, fundraising, and management of the coordinated network of independent legal aid organizations that deliver civil legal aid to low-income Pennsylvanians and victims of domestic violence.

Prior to his role at PLAN, Inc., Patrick was the Executive Director of the [Pennsylvania Utility Law Project \(PULP\)](#), a specialized legal aid office that provides advocacy, training, and representation on energy and utility matters affecting low-income Pennsylvanians. Patrick worked at PULP for 9 years. Patrick also worked as a staff attorney for 5 years at [MidPenn Legal Services](#) in Harrisburg where he led their consumer unit and focused on consumer and housing issues, and served as a judicial law clerk to the Hon. Sylvia H. Rambo, United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for 3.5 years.

Patrick also frequently serves as an adjunct professor at Messiah University. He received his J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2002, and his B.A. from Messiah College (now University) in 1999. Patrick lives in Mechanicsburg with his wife Helena, their two children, and his in-laws.



Eric S. Cramer
President and CEO
Wilkes Communications and RiverSteet Networks,
Wilkesboro, NC.

Mr. Cramer has over 27 years of industry experience. He began his career as a consultant with John Staurulakis, Inc. where he spent eight years working with numerous rural ILECs on financial and regulatory matters from 1996-2005. Since then with Wilkes he initiated a complete change management and growth strategy and overseen the launch of new product lines and extensive FTTH network upgrades. He has most recently overseen 15 strategic acquisitions of both wireline and wireless companies, a cooperative merger and numerous growth initiatives including multiple Public Private Partnerships involving municipal partners and power companies. These expansion efforts have more than tripled the size of the company and have expanded its footprint from primarily one county to parts of over 68 counties in 5 states. Under Mr. Cramer's leadership the company has successfully been awarded approximately \$330M in local, state and federal grants and has secured significant financing from both USDA and CoBank for broadband expansion. Mr. Cramer has a BSBA in Finance from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and an MS in Telecom and Technology Management and an MBA from the University of Maryland.



Thad Culley
Director of Public Policy
Sunrun

Thad covers regulatory and policy matters in the Southeast and the mid-Atlantic. Prior to joining Sunrun in March 2021, Thad served as a regulatory lawyer and Senior Regional Director for Vote Solar, covering state solar policy issues in the Carolinas and Virginia. Prior to joining Vote Solar in 2017, Thad was a partner at the Oakland-based law firm Keyes & Fox, LLP where he worked on distributed generation issues including rate design, distributed energy resource programs, and interconnection. Thad graduated from North Carolina State University with a B.A. in History in 1999 and earned his J.D. from Tulane Law School, with a certificate in Environmental Law, in 2010. Thad lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



Philip J. Dion
Senior Vice President, Customer Solutions
Edison Electric Institute

In this role, Phil leads the customer team's efforts to provide thought leadership and best practices as customers increasingly choose increased electrification as part of their growth and sustainability plans. Near term focus areas include transportation electrification, carbon free electricity, resiliency, and affordability, especially for low-income customers. He also serves on the board of the Institute for Electric Innovation where he works to convene members as they contemplate "around the corner" technologies and potential disruptors and helps them develop the policies and programs necessary to lead the energy transition.

Before joining EEI, Mr. Dion served in a number of executive positions with American Electric Power. He served most recently as Vice President of Federal Affairs. Mr. Dion joined AEP in July of 2015 as the Vice President, Technology Business Development and was named Vice President, Customer Solutions and Policy Insights in 2018 and interim Chief Customer Officer in 2021.

Prior to his tenure with AEP, Mr. Dion served as Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Customer Solutions, Vice President, Public Policy, and Vice President of Legal and Environmental Services in a seven-year career with UNS Energy Corporation.

Preceding his work as an electric company executive, Mr. Dion was Chief of Staff to FERC Commissioner Marc Spitzer. Mr. Dion also worked in various roles at the Arizona Corporation Commission, including as an administrative law judge and as an advisor to Chairman Spitzer, prior to Spitzer's appointment to the FERC. Mr. Dion also has run a small business, participated in entrepreneurial ventures, and was a prosecutor in Maricopa County, where he was awarded the Prosecutor of the Year Award.

Mr. Dion has a Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration in finance from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California and a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona.

He has held numerous board positions including the Phoenix Suns Charities and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective and has participated on various executive advisory committees with EEI.



Nanette Edwards
Former Executive Director
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Nanette joined the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) in 2005. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, she is a graduate of Erskine College and holds a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. Before joining the ORS, Nanette served as a vice-president and regulatory attorney for ITC^DeltaCom where she represented the company before state and federal agencies and managed all regulatory litigation activities. At the ORS, Nanette first served as a staff attorney in the ORS Legal Department before being promoted to Deputy General Counsel and then to Chief Counsel and Director of Legal Services. While serving as Chief Counsel, Nanette also

led the ORS Telecommunications Department. She became Deputy Executive Director of the ORS in 2014 and Executive Director for the agency in 2018.



Brian George
Google
US Federal Lead
Global Energy Market Policy and Development

Brian is responsible for energy regulatory and policy engagement across the federal government, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Department of Energy. In addition, he is responsible for Google's energy policy and strategy in the organized regional wholesale power markets across the US, where data centers are a large and growing commercial load.

Brian has extensive experience in wholesale electricity market design and energy policy.

Prior to Google, Brian was the Senior Director for Strategy and Government Affairs at the Electric Power Supply Association where he led policy development and federal legislative engagement for a membership consisting of over 150,000 MW of competitive power generation across the US.

Brian started his career as an economist at FERC, serving in roles across multiple offices, including the Office of Enforcement and the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation. Brian capped his service at FERC as a technical advisor to former commissioner Rob Powelson, where he advised on significant issues impacting all of the organized electricity markets. A native of West Virginia, Brian now lives in Maryland with his wife, son, and goldendoodle.



Jason T. Gray
Partner, Duncan & Allen LLP
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Gray is a partner with Duncan & Allen LLP. For over 15 years, he has focused on representing consumer advocates, large wholesale customers, and state agencies in a variety of energy-regulatory proceedings before FERC, state commissions, and state and federal courts.



Britta Gross
Director of Transportation
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

Britta directs EPRI's transportation program as well as the EVs2Scale2030 initiative and is responsible for defining the market strategies needed to accelerate the electrification of the transportation system, with an urgent focus on identifying the critical gaps that need to be addressed to achieve 2030 climate-aligned goals.

Britta was formerly the Director of Advanced Vehicle Commercialization at General Motors, responsible for the energy and infrastructure strategies required to enable the commercialization of battery and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles. Britta is also currently the President of the Orlando Utilities Commission, Orlando's electric and water utility.

She has an Electrical Engineering degree from LSU and studied language arts at the University of Wurzburg in Germany. She has held numerous board seats, including the Alliance for Transportation Electrification, NACFE, MobilityData, Plug in America, the Electric Drive Transportation Association (EDTA), Rhombus, and served as a Governor appointee on both the Massachusetts and Maryland EV Commissions. Ms. Gross has received numerous industry awards including the Forth Roadmap Career Achievement Award, Automotive News' "Electrifying 100", the GreenBiz "Verge 25" award, and has testified at the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on transportation electrification.



Roger Hall, Esq.
Deputy Consumer Advocate
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs

Roger Hall is the Director of the Department's Advocacy Division. In this capacity, he oversees the Department's rulemaking, insurance, and utility roles. His work includes representing the consumer interest (residential ratepayers) at the South Carolina Public Service Commission. He was hired as an Assistant Consumer Advocate in January 2020 and appointed Deputy Consumer Advocate in February 2021. He previously spent seven years in private practice advising clients on environmental issues related to commercial real estate transactions in the telecommunications field. Hall began his career at the Department of Health and Environmental Control advising on issues related to environmental compliance, regulatory interpretation and agency policies. Hall completed a dual track program at Samford University receiving both a Juris Doctorate from its Cumberland School of Law and a Master's in Environmental Management from the University. He is from Fredericksburg, VA and has lived in Columbia, SC for 24 years.



Dawn Hipp
Chief Operating Officer
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Dawn is responsible for the operational functions of the South Carolina Energy Office, the Utility Rates & Services, Transportation and Safety teams. In this capacity, she represents the interest of all customer classes in utility matters before for the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Prior to joining the ORS in 2004, Ms. Hipp managed the financial, operations, and regulatory aspects for an environmental company to provide turn-key hazardous waste consulting services for the United States Department of Defense. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Minnesota State University-Moorhead.



W. Keller Kissam
President–Dominion Energy South Carolina

W. Keller Kissam is president–Dominion Energy South Carolina. He oversees Dominion Energy's regulated utility in South Carolina serving about 1.1 million electric and gas customer accounts. Prior to the merger with Dominion Energy, Kissam joined SCANA in 1988 as a new utility professional and held numerous positions in both electric and gas operations.

He was named vice president-Gas Operations in 1996, vice president-SCE&G Electric Operations in 2003 and President and Chief Operating Officer of SCE&G in 2017. Upon completion of the merger, he was named president Electric Operations at Dominion Energy South Carolina in 2019 and he assumed his current position in January 2022.

Kissam serves as a board and executive committee member for the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and is a board member for the South Carolina Manufacturer's Alliance and the Southeastern Electric Exchange. He also is a member of the Palmetto Business Forum. Kissam earned a bachelor's degree from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, where he served as Regimental Commander of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets. He also received an Honorary Doctorate of Business from The Citadel in 2015 and is a member of The Citadel's Business Hall of Fame.



Jeremy Koster
Vice President, Planning and Optimization
Duke Energy

Jeremy currently leads Natural Gas Planning and Optimization which includes teams within Distribution Work Management, Business Initiatives and Planning, Asset Data Quality (GIS), Business Transformation, Continuous Improvement, Digital Transformation, and Environmental Strategy and Initiatives.

Aside from growing, leading teams and collaborating outside of the Natural Gas Business Unit with the larger enterprise, Jeremy invests a large amount of time working to affect a mindset shift in the Natural Gas line of business around agility, innovation, leadership, emerging technology and serves as a change agent in the company's transformation and its initiatives.

Hailing from Up-State New York, Jeremy graduated from the State University of New York at Cortland with degrees in Environmental Science and Biology. Currently, Jeremy resides North of Charlotte, NC in Cornelius with his wife Heather and 4 children.



David S. Lapp
People's Counsel
Maryland Office of People's Counsel

David was appointed Maryland People's Counsel in 2021 by Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh. David has 30 years of combined experience as a lawyer, policy analyst and writer focusing on public policy and corporate accountability in important segments of the economy. His positions have required mastery of complicated legal issues and competing public policy goals. For the past 23 years as an attorney, his work has emphasized state and federal regulatory policy in the utility, tobacco and healthcare industries.

Until his appointment as Acting People's Counsel starting January 1, 2021, David worked from 2004-2020 as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland (OAG). In his most recent position at OAG, David served as Deputy Counsel for the Maryland Department of Health, addressing healthcare industry regulation and providing advice and representation to the State Medicaid Program. Before that, as Chief Counsel of the OAG's Tobacco Enforcement Unit, he was a leader in state and national efforts to enforce the national tobacco Master Settlement Agreement against the major cigarette manufacturers.

For more than 10 years prior to his work at OAG, David advocated on behalf of consumer and environmental interests in the field of utility regulation, first as a writer and policy analyst, and then as an attorney, primarily representing and advising state regulatory commissions and environmental and consumer advocates.

David graduated in 1998 from the University of Maryland School of Law, Order of Coif. He served as Articles Editor of the Maryland Law Review and received several academic awards. Following law school,

he served as a law clerk on the Maryland Court of Appeals for Judge Howard Chasanow. He received his Bachelor of Arts with honors in 1989 from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.



Brian Lips
Senior Project Manager
North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center.

Brian manages the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE) website. In addition to coordinating and overseeing the project's administration and research, Brian also authors DSIRE's content for CA, HI, NC, NV, and SC. Brian also contributes to the Center's DSIRE Insight Subscription Service and its quarterly policy research publications. Brian joined the Center in 2006 and served in various capacities with the DSIRE project before becoming the manager of the project in 2013. Brian received a degree in Integrated Science and Technology from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, with a focus in Energy and Environmental Science.



Sujit Mandal
Power Demand Lead
Amazon

Sujit Mandal leads the Power Demand vertical in AMZL Energy, i.e., the Last Mile team inside Amazon. Sujit is an electric power industry leader with experience in strategic planning, execution, business development, and executive partnership. Sujit has BS and MS in Electrical Engineering, and an MBA focused on leadership and has been in the energy industry for 25 years.



Charlotte A. Mitchell
Chair, North Carolina Public Utilities Commission

Chair Charlotte Mitchell was appointed to the North Carolina Utilities Commission by Governor Roy Cooper for a term that commenced on July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2023. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Mitchell moved to North Carolina to study at UNC-Chapel Hill as a Morehead Scholar. She earned a B.A. in Anthropology and Romance Languages at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she also lettered in Women's Soccer. She earned a Juris Doctor from UNC-Chapel Hill, serving as Publication Editor for the North Carolina Law Review, as well as a Master of Environmental Economics and Policy from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment.

Prior to joining the Commission, Mitchell engaged in the private practice of law, focusing on energy, environmental and land use regulatory matters. She is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and she is a former member of both the NC Mining and Energy Commission and NC Sedimentation and Control Commission. She is active in civic and community affairs, having recently served on the Board of Directors of the Women's Center of Wake County and as a Wake County Guardian ad Litem. She resides in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Michael Moody
Division Chief, Special Litigation Division,
Michigan Department of the Attorney General

Michael was appointed an assistant attorney general with the Michigan Department of Attorney General in October of 1995. Prior to accepting the appointment, he worked at the Michigan Court of Appeals. At the Attorney General's Office, Michael handled criminal prosecution and employment discrimination for a few years before joining the Special Litigation Division which handles the utility consumer advocacy for the state as well as special assignments by the Attorney General such as his appointment by then Governor Snyder as the State Public Administrator for eight years that he held concurrently with his position in the Special Litigation Division. He has litigated utility cases at the Attorney General's Office for over 20+ years and has been the Division Chief for over 6 years.



Sean Morash
Principal - Telos Energy

Sean has experience across a range of topics, including power system modeling, transmission and distribution planning, and technology integration. For the last 10 years, he has worked on projects that combine the traditional disciplines of economics, engineering, technology, and policy, and he specializes in conveying complex electric sector themes to a range of stakeholder audiences. Prior to joining Telos Energy, he worked for EnerNex in their Smart Grid Engineering team. While there, he worked on a variety of smart grid roadmap projects across the US and internationally for both utilities and commissions. These projects typically included considerations for layering sensing and measurement, distribution automation, and advanced analytics capabilities onto the existing grid infrastructure amid the transition to clean energy. Beyond the strategy work, Sean performed detailed production modeling to inform a balancing authority's operational reserves practices and developed a novel dynamic line rating forecasting methodology using machine learning techniques. He recently coordinated a DOE Sponsored Task Force on Grid Planning for Vehicle Electrification.



Olivia Rivera
Director of External Affairs
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

Olivia is responsible for legislative affairs, media relations, consumer services, and consumer education. She manages the OUCC's processes for informing consumers about pending cases, and their opportunities to participate. She oversees the agency's process for accepting consumer comments and filing them for the formal case record with the state's regulatory commission. Her responsibilities also include managing all the agency's external communications efforts including the agency's website, monthly newsletter, and social media feeds.

Olivia has been a dedicated public servant since she graduated from Indiana State University and began her career as a Governor Eric Holcomb's office, where she served as a Governor's Fellow. During that time, she has had the opportunity to work with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration regarding Title XI and ADA matters, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security on emergency

response through two major hurricanes, and the Indiana Department of Correction where she served in the legislative affairs division. She also assisted the Governor's Office with constituent inquiries, assisted in the administration of the First Lady's social media and public relations, and oversaw ceremonial bill signings.



Anthony Sandonato
Energy Policy Researcher
Energy Markets and Policy Department
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Anthony conducts research on energy efficiency, utility planning, and electrification. Anthony also coordinates technical assistance for the National Community Solar Partnership. Prior to joining LBNL, Anthony was employed by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (SCORS) as the Deputy Director of Energy Planning and Emerging Technology, where he led the review of utility planning, distributed energy resource, electrification and general rate case proceedings in South Carolina. During his time at SCORS Anthony worked on electric, natural gas, water and wastewater regulatory proceedings in South Carolina. Prior to joining SCORS Anthony worked with a global professional, technology, and marketing service firm working with large investor-owned utilities on energy efficiency program design and implementation.

Anthony has testified as an expert witness in annual fuel, purchase gas adjustment, utility facility siting, integrated resource planning and general rate proceedings in South Carolina. Anthony holds a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from North Carolina State University.



Barrett C. Sheridan
Assistant Consumer Advocate
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

Ms. Sheridan has been with the Office of Consumer Advocate for 33 years. When Sonny Popowsky became Consumer Advocate, the OCA had four staff attorney openings. Ms. Sheridan is proud to have been among one of Sonny's early hires. Ms. Sheridan has continued to serve as an Assistant Consumer Advocate under the leadership of Tanya McCloskey, Christine Maloni Hoover, and the current Consumer Advocate Patrick Cicero.

During her tenure with the OCA, Ms. Sheridan has worked on rate cases, quality of service cases, and consumer complaint cases in a variety of industries. However, Ms. Sheridan's focus has been on state and federal telecom matters, on behalf of the OCA and/or NASUCA. Ms. Sheridan learned much from her colleague and mentor Philip McClelland, an original NASUCA representative on the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service, created following the 1996 Telecommunications Act. As deregulation of the telecom industry has evolved, plenty of novel issues related to rates, regulation, and consumer protection have kept Ms. Sheridan and OCA colleagues busy.

Ms. Sheridan has represented the OCA on task forces at the state level concerning the availability of highspeed internet services, utility pole oversight, 911 service, and TRS service.

Ms. Sheridan has been a member of the NASUCA Telecom Committee for roughly 20 years and part of the Committee leadership for over 8 years. Ms. Sheridan has drafted NASUCA Telecom resolutions on Lifeline and universal service issues. Ms. Sheridan has contributed to or authored NASUCA comments filed with the FCC on a variety of universal service topics as well as consumer protection. Ms. Sheridan has served as a NASUCA staff member on the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service for 12 years. In Fall 2023, Ms. Sheridan joined the newly rechartered North American Numbering Council (NANC) as the NASUCA representative.

Ms. Sheridan was born in Baltimore, Maryland, raised in Pennsylvania, and fortunate to have graduated from Brown University (B.A. 1982) and Boston University School of Law (J.D. 1989).



Karen H. Stachowski
Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Division
Office of Tennessee Attorney General

Karen is the Deputy Attorney General with the Tennessee Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Protection and Advocate. In this role, she focuses on proceedings before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (TPUC), which is responsible for regulating Tennessee's investor-owned utility companies. The Consumer Advocate seeks to enforce laws applicable to public utilities, to remove barriers to competition in public utilities markets, and to seek a healthy balance between regulation, competition, and the public

interest. It participates in regulatory proceedings before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission and monitors complaints filed against various utilities in the state.

Karen began her legal career with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation where she held various titles and job responsibilities including Deputy Commissioner of Environment, Assistant Commissioner, Managing Legal Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. She also previously worked in the Attorney General's Office in the Law Enforcement and Prosecution Division.

Karen is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women, where she majored in Biology. She attended law school at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis.

Karen is currently the Chair to the Water Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Financial Research Institute at the University of Missouri. Karen is also a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Water Works Association, and the Energy Bar Association.



Robert Thormeyer
Director, State, International, and Tribal Affairs Division
Office of External Affairs, Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission

Rob Thormeyer serves as Director of the State, International, and Tribal Affairs Division (SITA) within FERC's Office of External Affairs. In this role, Thormeyer directs the Commission's engagement with state, international, and Tribal government officials. SITA coordinates and centralizes the interaction and communication between FERC and government agencies, domestic and foreign, through briefings, events, email distribution, and much more.

Prior to joining FERC in September 2021, Thormeyer served as Vice President of Communications and Advocacy at the Utilities Technology Council, an international trade association

representing the telecom and technology needs of electric, water, and natural gas utilities. Before that, from March 2015-August 2017, Thormeyer served as a Strategic Advisor to former Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Member Colette D. Honorable. From November 2006-March 2015, Thormeyer served as Director of Communications at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Thormeyer began his career as a journalist.



Brian Weisker
Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer
Piedmont Natural Gas

Brian leads Duke Energy's natural gas business. He leads the gas utility operations, including construction, engineering, operations support and maintenance, asset management and integrity, operations performance, gas control, quality management and pipeline safety. Weisker has more than 25 years of experience in the energy industry. Prior to assuming his current position in January 2020, he served as Duke Energy's vice president of operational excellence within the natural gas business.

He began his career as a nuclear submarine officer serving onboard three separate fast attack submarines from 1994 to 2002. After leaving military service, Weisker joined Cinergy Corp., where he held several corporate leadership roles from 2002 to 2006. Following Duke Energy's merger with Cinergy in 2006, he served as the plant manager at the East Bend, Allen and Marshall power plants. He was named vice president of coal combustion products, operations and maintenance in 2015. Weisker assumed the position of vice president of operational excellence for the natural gas business in 2018.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Weisker graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from Tulane University.

Weisker serves as chair of the Operations Safety Regulatory Action Committee and as a member of the Operations Section Managing Committee for the American Gas Association. He serves as a member of the Common Ground Alliance Board of Directors, is a member of the Gas Technology Institute Operations Technology Development Board of Directors and co-chairs the American Heart Association's Greater Charlotte Heart Challenge campaign. Weisker is also a recipient of Duke Energy's James B. Duke Award, the company's highest employee award for outstanding contributions to Duke Energy's business success. Weisker and his wife, Pamela, have two daughters and a son.



Thomas Wiehl
Director of Utility Oversight & Regulatory Reform
Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

Tom joined the Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) as a Staff Attorney in 2020, after working as General Counsel and then VP of Administration at a fuel distribution company. Tom served as a Staff Attorney at OCC for three years, advocating on behalf of ratepayer interests before Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority as well as state courts and the legislature, primarily in the areas of distributed energy resources; developments to Connecticut's regulatory framework such as a Low-Income Discount Rate and Performance Based Regulation; and rate cases for regulated water and electric companies.

In 2023 Tom was promoted to Director of Utility Oversight and Regulatory Reform, where he leads OCC staff on all regulatory proceedings and assists the office with developing broad strategies across the various areas of OCC's advocacy work.

Tom earned his bachelor's degree from Bennington College, master's degree from California College of the Arts, and J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law.