

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2024 Annual Meeting Anaheim, California Bios and Headshots



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 is a past President of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA), past Chair of the Financial Research Institute Advisory Board and also serves on the Consumer Advocates for the PJM States Board of Directors, 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.



Michele Beck
Director
Utah Office of Consumer Services

Michele has served as Utah's utility consumer advocate since 2007, she represents and advocates on behalf of Utah's residential and small commercial consumers of public utilities. In this position, she oversees all staff and analytical work of the office. Ms. Beck's other current professional responsibilities include: chair of the Member Advisory Committee of WECC, member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, Utah's representative on the Markets+ States Committee, consumer advocate sector representative on the Launch Committee of the West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative, and a member of Smart Energy Power Alliance's Research Advisory Council. Prior to her work in Utah, Ms. Beck worked for over a decade in various positions in the electric industry in the Midwest.



Noel Black
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Southern Company

Noel Black is the SVP of Government Affairs for Southern Company, working out of the Washington, DC office. Noel leads Southern Company's energy policy, advocating for orders and rules that deliver affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for all our customers. He also directs the Company's regulatory policy outreach with federal and state agencies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, and the Environmental Protection Agency, among others. Noel has significant merger and acquisition experience and has successfully managed the regulatory approvals for multibillion dollar transactions.

Noel also designs and delivers strategic solutions, such as the Southeastern Energy Exchange Market (SEEM), that benefit customers and support renewable integration and electricity price stability for the Southeast. He served as the inaugural Chair of SEEM, overseeing the market development, regulatory filings and approvals, and SEEM's successful launch.

Noel began his career at Southern Company in 1994 and has served in a variety of leadership roles at subsidiaries Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Mississippi Power, and Savannah Electric. Before transitioning to federal regulatory affairs in 2011, Noel served in electric operations as an area manager for Georgia Power where he managed engineering, construction, storm response, customer service, economic and community development and external affairs in North Georgia.

In addition to leadership roles within the Edison Electric Institute, Noel serves on the Advisory Board for the University of Idaho's Energy Executive Course, the George Washington Energy Law Board, the New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities Board, and the Power for Tomorrow Board.

A native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Noel earned a bachelor's degree in Marketing and master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Samantha Caputo
Senior Regulatory Affairs and Market Development Manager
Opower

Samantha specializes in behavioral energy efficiency and decarbonization. Samantha has been with the Opower team for over four years and prior to joining Opower she worked on building decarbonization policy at Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships. She graduated from Clark University with a Bachelors in Global Environmental Studies and Spanish and holds a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy.



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.



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 Wiggin 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.



Regina Costa
Telecommunications Director
The Utility Reform Network(TURN)

Regina Costa joined TURN in 1991. She is responsible for developing TURN's policy on regulatory, economic and public policy angles of telecommunications issues, including service quality and network reliability, and participates heavily in TURN's legal work in telecommunications as well. She chairs the telecommunications committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) and is involved in preparing NASUCA's comments on many national telecommunications issues, including tech transitions, network reliability, outage reporting, high cost fund support, broadband deployment and open networks/net neutrality.



Tricia DeBleeckere
Executive Director
Organization of MISO State

Tricia DeBleeckere began working with the Organization of MISO States in May 2024 following her role with MISO as the Director of State Policy and Strategy. Prior to MISO, Tricia worked for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for 15-years as a Commission advisor and analyst on integrated resource, transmission and distribution system planning, facility siting and need, cost recovery, and competitive procurements. Prior to government work, Tricia spent 7-years consulting on FERC and state regulatory filings for natural gas, ethanol, and manufacturing clients. Tricia has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Minnesota and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas Permian Basin.



Stephen M. DeFrank
Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission

Stephen M. DeFrank was nominated to serve as Commissioner by Governor Tom Wolf on September 20, 2022, confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on October 19, 2022, and soon after elected as Vice Chairman on October 27, 2022. He was appointed as Chairman on August 30, 2023, by Governor Josh Shapiro. His term will expire on April 1, 2025. He brings extensive professional experience to the Commission, having been employed in both the public and private sectors.

Chairman DeFrank spent 24 years in Pennsylvania state government, primarily in the state Senate where he served in several roles with Senate leadership, including Chief of Staff for two members, Special

Assistant for Policy to the Democratic Leader and Democratic Executive Director of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee. It was in his capacity as Committee Director where he helped develop policy initiatives and legislation in the utility sector, including modernizing the Public Utility Code relative to energy, water, wastewater and telecommunications. He was a key figure in the enactment of several major legislative accomplishments including the creation of the Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC) and the authorization of Transportation Network Companies in the Commonwealth. Chairman DeFrank was also the inaugural Legislative Liaison at the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board during the agency's establishment.

Immediately prior to his tenure at the Commission, he was a principal in the government relations practice of Buchanan, Ingersoll, and Rooney. It was there where he gained an understanding of water and energy delivery from an operational standpoint, while his time at the Senate informed his understanding of utility regulation from a policy standpoint.

The Chairman's priorities at the Commission cover the wide spectrum of utility jurisdictional areas – electric, natural gas, telecommunications and transportation. He is focusing efforts on advancing utilities' roles in transportation electrification; expanding availability and access to both renewable and certified sources of natural gas for utilities; increasing availability of broadband telecommunications services; updating commission transportation licensing procedures; and better accessibility, expansion and retention of consumer affordability assistance programs. His focus is also on the ever-increasing cyber threats that exist to distribution systems and ensuring utilities are prepared to meet those challenges. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in May 2024 appointed Chairman DeFrank to its Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations, which oversees the apportioning of regulated costs between interstate and intrastate jurisdictions. Chairman DeFrank also is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Co-Vice Chair of the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, a member of the NARUC Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative, a member of the NARUC Electric Vehicles State Working Group and a board member of the Organization of PJM States (OPSI).

A native of Uniontown, Fayette County, he lives in the Harrisburg area with his wife Colleen and their two daughters Brynn and Paige.



Juliet Ellis **Promise | Head of Utilities Practice**

Juliet Ellis is the Head of the Utilities Practice at Promise, a technology company that provides payment software and services for utilities and governments. Since 2020, Juliet has been working to help utilities improve their customer payment management and boost revenue through flexible payment plans and access to relief and aid for low-income residents. Additionally, as Chair of the Water Agency Leaders Alliance (WALA), Juliet works with public water and wastewater utility executives across the country to address equity and workforce development issues in the sector. Previously, Juliet served as Chief Strategy Officer at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) for ten years, where she served on the Executive team and was responsible for policy, communications, organizational planning, affordability, and overall agency strategy. She also served as an Assistant Professor at Mills College and an Adjunct Professor at the New School, where she created and co-taught "Public Policy in Action: Advancing Economic & Social Equity in America."



**Jorgen Festervoll,
Chief Executive Officer
Heimdall Power**

Heimdall Power a leading Grid Enhancing Technology provider where he oversees the company's global growth and strategic direction. Mr Festervoll has more than 20 years of experience from the utility space, working within the whole value chain from generation and wholesale power markets to T&D and retail. Prior to Heimdall Power he worked at the listed investment company

Saga Pure where he led the companies deal sourcing and portfolio management within the green energy space as their VP of Renewable Opportunities. He holds a Master of Science in Business Administration from the Norwegian School of Economics.



**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 Midcontinent Independent System Operator Advisory Committee, and is a

member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council. Freeman is also President of the Mid-American Regulatory Conference, Vice Chair of the Financial Research Institute Advisory Council at the University of Missouri, and serves on the Board of Directors 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. Commissioner Freeman lives in Indianapolis with her husband, Ian Stewart. Their daughter, Nia, attends Indiana University-Bloomington. They are members of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.



**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.



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.



Kristy Hartman
Director of Stakeholder Strategy & Engagement
Nuclear Energy Institute

Kristy leads NEI's state regulatory affairs activities, including outreach to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and its regional organizations on topics such as the deployment of new reactors, preservation of the existing nuclear fleet, and used nuclear fuel management. Kristy also manages NEI's strategy for research and outreach to third party groups, relevant stakeholders, and potential allies to amplify industry messages and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Prior to joining NEI, Kristy spent eight years at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) where she served as the Energy Program Director for the Environment, Energy and Transportation Program. Kristy analyzed regulatory and legislative trends related to fossil fuels, energy security, grid reliability, nuclear power, renewable energy and alternative fuels. Additionally, she led NCSL's Task

Force on Energy Supply and Nuclear Legislative Working Group, bringing together legislators to learn about and discuss critical energy issues and examine nuclear generation in the U.S. and the cleanup of federal nuclear weapons facilities.

From 2008 – 2011, Kristy managed congressional affairs and appropriations issues for the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration. She also previously served as a legislative aide in North Carolina's General Assembly. She received her Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan.



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



Mike Hennen
Principal
RMI

Mike works toward transforming the US building stock to a carbon-free future. His work includes engagement with the gas and electric utility sector to support the decarbonization of these businesses. He led reports on principles for utility decarbonization, gas infrastructure expansion policies, regulatory solutions for buildings, and economics of electrifying buildings. Mike also supports RMI's work to understand the health benefits of building decarbonization and solutions for the affordable housing sector.

Before joining RMI, Mike was an engagement manager for McKinsey and Company in San Francisco. He primarily worked in the electric power sector, serving major utilities on operations and strategy projects. Before this, Mike served as an officer in the US Army and was deployed to Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division in 2008–09.



Dr. Courtney Henderson
Clean Energy Strategist & Founder
Hawks Peak Strategies

Dr. Courtney Henderson is an energy, climate, and health strategist with 20 years of experience in those sectors. Her work has taken her throughout the United States and as far afield as Western Africa and Northern India. She has extensive experience helping utility companies achieve their energy goals to move toward a cleaner, more equitable energy future, and in public health, supporting organizations in the development of health research infrastructure and improving the provision of healthcare. Courtney is the Founder and President of Hawks Peak Strategies, a strategy and consulting firm that provides market strategy, branding and go-to-market services, customer-centric research, policy and

regulatory solutioning, and thought leadership in the utility and clean energy sectors. Most recently, she has been supporting the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to elevate the voice of the customer in regulatory proceedings.

Courtney brings a unique lens to the energy landscape, in that she is also an elected official. In 2020, she was elected to the Truckee Town Council, immediately nominated to Vice Mayor, and subsequently, to Mayor. She is re-running for election this year, and serves on multiple committees, including the Legislative Correspondence Committee, League of California Cities, Truckee Chamber of Commerce, Nevada County Economic Resources Council, Sierra Business Council's Climate Action and Mitigation Partnership, and boards of local non-profits working on climate solutions.

She holds a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University, Master of Public Health from Brown University, and Doctorate in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley. Courtney lives in Truckee, California where she is also a pro-level mountain bike racer, all-around adventure seeker, and mom to a thrill-seeking seven-year-old boy.



Asa Hopkins, PhD
Senior Vice President, Consulting
Synapse Energy Economics

Asa is an expert in the development and analysis of public policy and regulation regarding energy and greenhouse gas emissions, including cost-benefit analysis, stakeholder engagement, state energy strategy and planning, and utility planning. He has provided analysis and testimony supporting decision-makers in both legislative and regulatory contexts, including state utility regulation and state and federal rulemaking. Dr. Hopkins has been deeply engaged in dockets and planning processes across the country regarding building decarbonization and the future of the natural gas utility system.

As the Director of Energy Policy and Planning at the Vermont Department of Public Service from 2011-2016, Dr. Hopkins was responsible for development and analysis of state policy regarding renewable energy, ratepayer-funded energy efficiency, energy-related economic development, and innovative utility rates and programs. Prior to 2011, Dr. Hopkins was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the Office of the Under Secretary for Science at the U.S. Department of Energy. Dr. Hopkins holds a B.S. in Physics from Haverford College and a Masters and PhD in Physics from the California Institute of Technology.



Darcie L. Houck
Commissioner
California Public Utilities Commission

Commissioner Darcie L. Houck was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) by Governor Gavin Newsom on Feb. 9, 2021. She formerly served as Chief Counsel for the California Energy Commission since 2019.

Commissioner Houck was an Administrative Law Judge at the CPUC from 2016 to 2019, a Partner at Fredericks Peebles & Morgan from 2005 to 2016, and Staff Counsel and Policy Advisor at the California Energy Commission from 2000 to 2005.

Commissioner Houck is an expert in nuclear decommissioning, environmental equity, and safety policy. She has an extensive background representing Native American tribes throughout the country on matters involving energy, natural resources, land claims, and water rights, among others.

Commissioner Houck is a member of the California Indian Law Association, California Lawyers Association, Schwartz-Levi Inn of Court, Women Lead and the Association of Women in Water, Energy, and Environment. She earned a law degree from the University of California, where she also earned a Master of Science in community development.



Tyler Huebner
Energy Market Development, Central Region
Google

Tyler Huebner joined Google in June 2024 as the Midwestern States Lead on the Energy Market Development. Prior to joining Google, Tyler served as a Commissioner at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin from 2020 to 2024. During his term he was a member of the Energy Resources & the Environment Committee in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and served on the Board of the Organization of MISO States, including terms as Secretary and Vice President.

Prior to his time as a Commissioner, Tyler was Executive Director of RENEW Wisconsin, a statewide renewable energy nonprofit organization from 2013 to 2020. He also worked at the State of Wisconsin Division of Energy Services and at the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy division in the low-income weatherization program helping citizens reduce their energy bills. He started his career as a consultant with ICF International. Tyler earned his Master's Degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering in the Atmosphere & Energy Program at Stanford University, and his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Iowa.



Will McCurry
Manager, State Government & Regulatory Affairs
North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Will is responsible for managing NERC's outreach efforts with state policymakers and regulators. In this role, Will must effectively communicate NERC's ongoing mission to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid. Prior to his time at NERC, Will worked at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) as a regulatory and policy expert on grid resilience.

Throughout his career, Will has been a dedicated advocate for effective policymaking to ensure the resilience and security of the electric grid. He has authored several reports on grid resilience topics. Will has a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago and is a graduate of Hamilton College. He lives in Chicago, IL with his wife and two dogs.



William J. Michael
Senior Consumers' Counsel
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

William J. Michael joined the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel as an Assistant Consumers' Counsel in April 2015. He was promoted to Senior Consumers' Counsel in October 2024. Before joining OCC, Bill was Vice President and General Counsel for Suburban Natural Gas Company. In that role, Bill represented the company before state courts and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio on matters that included rates, property rights, contractual disputes, tariff matters, and general regulatory compliance. Before Suburban, Bill was with Calfee, Halter, & Griswold LLP in Cleveland and Columbus. Bill earned his Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University College of Law

in 1999 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, *summa cum laude* with Honors, from Ohio State in 1996.



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.



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 Synder 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.



Gregory J. Poulos
Executive Director
Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, Inc.

Greg Poulos has been the executive director for the Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, Inc. (CAPS) since April, 2017. Established in 2013, CAPS is a nonprofit organization whose members include state advocate offices in the 13 PJM states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the CAPS members represent over 65-million consumers throughout the PJM footprint. As the executive director of CAPS, Greg coordinates the efforts of the member offices, stays active in the PJM stakeholder process, and monitors relevant proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure that the prices consumers pay for reliable, wholesale electric service are reasonable.

Prior to joining CAPS, Greg spent over six years at EnerNOC as a member of the Regulatory Affairs team. While at EnerNOC, Greg regularly represented the company at public utility commissions throughout the Midwest. He also interacted with many regional transmission organizations including PJM, Inc., the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Alberta Electric System

Operator (AESO). Greg earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He received his Juris Doctorate with from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.



Renée L. Roland
Special Counsel
Federal Communications Commission's
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

Renée is responsible for addressing a number of spectrum policy, cybersecurity and emergency management issues. Ms. Roland develops strategies for secure, robust, and resilient communications networks and systems for first responders and the public and oversees policy issues related to public safety spectrum and licensing, the First Responder Network Authority and Next Generation 911. Ms. Roland currently serves as a taskforce co-chair of the Cybersecurity Forum for Independent and Executive Branch Regulators and leads the implementation of the Cybersecurity Labeling for Internet of

Things program for the Bureau. Ms. Roland has held a number of senior positions at the FCC, including Senior Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff to two former Commissioners. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Roland was Deputy Chief Counsel for a New York-based telecommunications company and began her career in private law firm practice. Ms. Roland received her J.D. from the George Washington University National Law Center, and her B.A. in Economics from Georgetown University.



Brian Rosen
Principal
Brian Rosen Technologies

Brian is a consultant to states and local governments on deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1, assisting in creating Request for Proposals, evaluation of responses, selection of vendors and monitoring progress. He also consults on Video Relay Service (VRS). He is a primary standards author, system architecture leader of the Next Generation 9-1-1 project, and has a forty-year

history of bringing groundbreaking technology advances to market. He is a seasoned entrepreneur and systems architect in computer systems, networking, medical imaging and other disciplines and is a subject matter expert in public safety systems, concentrating on the 9-1-1 system and Video Relay Service.



David Rosner
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

David Rosner joined the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as a Commissioner in June 2024. Commissioner Rosner has 15 years of experience across energy technologies, market design and energy policy issues, both in and outside of government. Prior to his service as a Commissioner, he was an energy industry analyst for FERC and spent two years on detail to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Democratic staff. During his time as a staff member at FERC, he led efforts related to the Commission's

rulemaking on energy storage resources, electric transmission, offshore wind integration, fuel security, and natural gas-electric coordination.

Commissioner Rosner was previously a senior policy advisor for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis and an associate director at the Bipartisan Policy Center's energy project. Commissioner Rosner holds master's degrees in economics and public policy from American University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Tufts University.

Commissioner Rosner resides in Washington, D.C., with his family.



Lisa Schwartz
Program Manager and Strategic Advisor
Lawrence Berkeley Lab's Electricity Markets and Policy
Department.

Lisa manages work spanning utility regulation, electricity system planning, energy efficiency and other distributed energy resources. She leads Berkeley Lab's innovative [Future Electric Utility Regulation report series](#), tapping leading thinkers to provide multiple perspectives on complex regulatory issues for the electricity sector to inform ongoing discussion and debate. She also leads training for states on integrated distribution system planning. Before joining the lab, Lisa was Director of the Oregon Department of Energy and served as a

Senior Associate at the Regulatory Assistance Project. Earlier, she was a Senior Utility Energy Analyst at the Oregon Public Utility Commission, leading staff work in the areas of resource planning and procurement, distributed and renewable energy resources, and climate change. Lisa received the 2018 Mary Kilmarx Award from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which recognizes individuals "who have gone above and beyond in the name of good governance, clean energy, and the environment."



Katie Sieben
Chair
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Katie Sieben has served as a Minnesota Public Utilities Commissioner since January of 2017. In 2019, she was appointed to serve as Chair of the Commission by Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan. She was reappointed to a second term in 2023.

Chair Sieben is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) where she serves on the Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR) Working Group, the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues — Waste Disposal, and

the Washington Action Committee. Chair Sieben previously served as a Minnesota legislator, representing a district southeast of the Twin Cities and along the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. In her fourteen years in the House and Senate, she championed causes related to the environment, public education and infrastructure, served as the Assistant Majority Leader and chaired the Election Committee.

Chair Sieben has taught as a community faculty member and adjunct professor at Metropolitan State University's Masters in Advocacy and Public Leadership Program. She earned her B.A. from Colorado College, was a Policy Fellow at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and earned a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.



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.



Benjamin J. Turner
Sr Director Asset & Risk Management
NiSource

Ben is primary responsible for driving down operational and asset risk while balancing safety, reliability, and affordability across all asset classes (gas & electric) at NiSource. His teams build, support, and maintain asset management plans, develop corporate objectives and support state regulatory filings. Furthermore, he owns all of NiSource's integrity management plans (TIMP, DIMP, SIMP & FIMP). Ben has been with NiSource for approximately 18 years in roles of increasing responsibility within Field Engineering, Energy Supply and Gas Control & System Planning. Ben has an AS in Electronics and Computer Engineering and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue and an MBA from Indiana University – Northwest and serves on the board for the Delaware County Transit Authority in Ohio.



Barbara Tyran
Director, External Relations,
National Hydropower Association (NHA)

In addition to her position at NHA, Barbara also serves as Advisor, Macro Grid Initiative, at the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE).

She brings outstanding federal/state government relations experience, following two decades as Director, Washington & State Relations, in EPRI's Washington DC office. She was the principal liaison between EPRI executive management and Congress, the Administration, the national trade associations, state legislators / regulators, and the

Washington policy community.

Her background includes federal advocacy for utilities and management consulting for public / private / non-profit sector clients, with engagements involving strategic planning, policy analysis, marketing, external relations and communications, and financial / economic analysis. She has held numerous leadership roles, including serving as General Chair of the IEEE Power & Energy Society 2014 and 2021 General Meetings, hosting several thousand international delegates. She is former President of the Board of Directors of the Women's Council on Energy & the Environment (WCEE).

In recognition of her technical expertise and knowledge, she was appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Energy and Energy Services, advising the Secretary and USTR on international trade matters. She was elected and re-elected as Chair.

She holds a BA degree with Honors from Stanford University and an MBA from Yale University.



Claire Wayner
Senior Associate
RMI's Carbon-Free Electricity Program

Claire works on researching strategies and policies for decarbonizing electricity markets, decongesting interconnection queues, and accelerating transmission infrastructure deployment, with a focus on the Mid-Atlantic (PJM). Prior to RMI, Claire worked at multiple organizations in energy and sustainability, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She has a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Princeton University with

a focus on sustainable energy.



Sanford S. Williams, Esq., MBA
Lecturer of Law at UCLA Law School
Deputy Chief of Staff to Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel
Federal Communications Commission

Sanford graduated from Newark Academy in New Jersey in 1983 and then enrolled at Cornell University at the age of 15, where he earned his Undergraduate Degree in Operations Research & Industrial Engineering and an MBA from the Johnson School of Management. He later attended the University of Virginia School of Law, where he earned a J.D. in 1996, and was a member of the Virginia Law Review.

Sanford was elected to the Manassas City, Virginia School Board in 2010 and served as a member until 2021, and the Chair from 2018-2021. Mr. Williams is the first African-American Chairman of the Manassas City School Board. Sanford is also a member of the Board of Directors of UNITE-LA, a nonprofit organization that leads collaborative education reform efforts, promotes business-education partnerships, expands college access and provides workforce development opportunities for youth in the Los Angeles area, Kollab Youth Workforce Development Program, the University of Virginia (UVA) School of Education Foundation, and the UVA Club of Los Angeles.

Sanford and his wife, Dr. Anastasia Williams, a pediatrician, live in Pasadena and have three adult children and three grandchildren. Their two daughters, Kiara Imani, an entertainment lawyer and Nia, a singer/songwriter, live in Pasadena; and they have one son, Dr. Sanford Williams, a pediatrician, who lives in Houston.