

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2025 Mid-Year Meeting Columbus, Ohio Bios and Headshots



Paul Alvarez
President, Wired 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 and other consumer advocates before utility regulators in CA, GA, IL, KS, KY, MA, MD, MI, NH, NJ, OH, OK, UT, and WA; environmental advocates in NC, 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.



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.



Brendon Baatz
Energy Market Development
Google

Brendon Baatz supports Google's energy needs for the company's global network of data centers. In his role, he focuses on energy market development, navigating the complex regulatory landscape of energy practice and policy to ensure a reliable and sustainable power supply for Google's critical infrastructure. Brendon is a seasoned expert in the energy sector with a career that spans regulatory bodies, consulting, and advocacy. Prior to his work at Google, he held positions with Gabel Associates, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Maryland Public Service Commission, and the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer

Counselor.



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.



Brad Cebulko
Founding Partner
Current Energy Group

Brad has more than 10 years of experience working on electric and gas regulatory issues before public utility commissions. Brad has submitted expert witness testimony and comments in states across the country on rate design, low-income ratepayer issues, performance-based regulation, electric and gas long-term planning, gas utility capital investment planning, and gas utility

decarbonization policy. Prior to co-founding Current Energy Group, Brad was a consultant with Strategen Consulting and worked at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. At the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Brad led the agency's rulemakings to implement with Clean Energy Transformation Act, the state's 100 percent clean electricity law.



Tom Content
Executive Director
Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin

The Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin is the nonprofit consumer advocate for Wisconsin utility customers -- homeowners, renters and small businesses across the state. Tom joined the Citizens Utility Board in 2017 after working for 30 years as a journalist, including 20 years tracking the Wisconsin energy and utilities sector while reporting in Milwaukee and Green Bay. In 2007, he won the National Press Foundation Stokes Award for top energy writing in the country for a series of articles in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Since coming to CUB Tom has led the CUB team's work to make sure that the Citizens Utility Board, now in its 45th year, is actively working on customers' behalf for decades to come. Tom is currently serving as vice president of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and also is serving on the advisory committee of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum and the boards of the Wisconsin Public Utility Institute and Customers First Coalition in Wisconsin.



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.



Cody Davis
Senior Principal Engineer, Distribution & Grid Modernization,
Electric Power Engineers.

Cody is a power systems engineer; he focuses on distribution system planning and integration of distributed energy resources (DERs) on the distribution system. He works with a wide variety of utilities and stakeholders on complex regulatory issues and has authored reports and testimony filed in several states on smart inverter impacts and modernization of distribution planning and operations. Previously, he served as an engineer at Ameren Illinois in the DER Integration & Strategies and Regional Engineering departments.



Jeff Dennis
Executive Director
Electricity Customer Alliance

The Electricity Customer Alliance is a coalition of electricity customers ranging from the largest to new loads to residential consumer advocates that is dedicated to advancing customer-centric solutions to modernize the grid, support digital infrastructure and manufacturing, and grow the economy while keeping energy affordable. He is also Senior Counsel CO2EFFICIENT. There, he guides companies and not-for-profit organizations through the intersection of federal and state regulation of the electricity sector and the complexities of wholesale electricity market rules and governance processes, and develops strategies to accelerate the planning, permitting, and development of electric transmission infrastructure. Jeff was most recently the first Deputy Director for Transmission in the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office, where he spearheaded all of DOE's transmission deployment initiatives and led the implementation of bipartisan, first-of-their kind, public-private partnerships that facilitated over \$8 billion in private sector transmission investment. Earlier in his career, Jeff served at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in a variety of roles for over a decade, including Director of Policy Development and Senior Legal Advisor to a Commissioner. He was also General Counsel and Managing Director at Advanced Energy United, and a lawyer in private practice.



Merrilee Embs
Public Affairs Director
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Merrilee Embs is the Ohio Consumers' Counsel Public Affairs Department Director. Merrilee joined the OCC as a Public Affairs Liaison in March 2019 and was named director in January 2024. She oversees OCC's efforts in communications, outreach and education, and legislative services. She is currently working on her Ph.D. at Tiffin University. She earned a Master of Science Degree in Public Relations from Murray State University in 2022 and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications/Journalism from Wright State University in 1995. Before joining OCC, Merrilee had more than 23 years' experience reporting, editing, designing and managing multiple daily and weekly newspapers in the Miami Valley.



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.



Rob Gramlich
Founder and President
Grid Strategies LLC

Grid Strategies is a Washington DC-based consultancy focused on transmission and power markets for a reliable, affordable, and sustainable power system. He co-founded Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT Coalition), Advancing Modern Powerlines, the Macro Grid Initiative, and the Future Power Markets Forum. Rob has been invited to testify by both parties before Congress, FERC, and state agencies. He has earned awards from FERC as Exemplar of Public Service, the Energy Systems Integration Group for contributions to market design and transmission planning, The Hill Magazine for lobbying, and the American Wind Energy Association for Technical Achievement.

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



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.



Charles Hua
Founder and Executive Director
PowerLines

Powerlines is a national nonpartisan consumer education nonprofit seeking to modernize the utility regulatory system. Charles has previously advised the U.S. Department of Energy on grid modernization and conducted energy policy research for Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. He is a U.S. Presidential Scholar, Aspen Institute Fellow, and Energy News Network 40 Under 40 honoree. Charles holds an A.B. in Statistics and Mathematics from Harvard College.



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.



Kathiann M. Kowalski

Kathiann M. Kowalski is a book author and journalist who reports frequently for Canary Media, as well as other publications. Her stories often focus on energy, science, and policy issues. In addition to her journalism career, Kathi is an alumna of Harvard Law School and has spent 15 years practicing law. She is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, the National Association of Science Writers, and the Society of Professional Journalists.



Jessica Langdon
Assistant Policy Director, Director's Office
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Jessie Langdon serves as Ohio EPA's Assistant Policy Director. Her work focuses on Ohio's PFAS coordination, Ohio EPA's WaterReuse Section involvement, Regional Water Study coordination, H2Ohio Rivers Program and agency multi-division permit coordination. She also serves as Ohio EPA's designee to the Ohio Power Siting Board. Jessie joined Ohio EPA in 2016. She received her bachelor's degree in political science from Marietta College and her master's degree in public administration from Ohio University.



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.

Matt McKenzie
Senior Vice President, Corporate Planning & Budgeting
American Electric Power.

Matt is responsible for AEP's financial planning, budgeting, and reporting; economic forecasting; and fundamentals analysis. Previously, he served as Vice President, Regulatory & Finance, for AEP Ohio and was responsible for the company's financial planning and strategy, as well as regulatory activities in Ohio.

McKenzie joined AEP in 2014 as Senior Counsel in AEP's legal department representing AEP operating companies in regulatory proceedings before state utility commissions. In 2020, he was promoted to Senior Counsel and Director – Performance Transformation, overseeing the department's financial performance and business operations. McKenzie continued to represent AEP Ohio from 2022 to 2024 as a private attorney.

Before joining AEP, McKenzie worked as an attorney in the Supreme Court and Appellate Practice Group of the law firm Jenner & Block in Washington, D.C. He also clerked for the Hon. Jose A. Cabranes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Hon. Sidney H. Stein of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

McKenzie received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Princeton University and a juris doctor degree from Yale Law School



Katrina McMurrian
Executive Director
Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF)

A former Florida Public Service Commissioner (2006–2009), Katrina McMurrian draws upon extensive regulatory experience to organize and facilitate relevant policy forums and to advise an array of entities on key regulatory and policy issues in the energy arena.

McMurrian currently serves as Executive Director of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF), a unique national forum in which state utility regulators, consumer advocates, and electric companies engage in a series of facilitated dialogues and produce reports on a range of energy topics such as clean

energy transition, electric transportation, resilience, and supporting electricity customers through times of crisis (COVID-19).

McMurrian also serves as Executive Director of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC), an ad hoc organization representing the collective interests of member state utility regulators, state consumer advocates, other state officials, tribal governments, local governments, electric companies with operating and shutdown nuclear reactors, and other experts on nuclear waste policy matters.

In these roles, McMurrian frequently interacts with Congress; Administration officials; state and federal utility regulators; state and national consumer organizations; other state, tribal, and local officials; industry representatives; and numerous other public and private stakeholders.

McMurrian serves on the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Nuclear Waste Policy Task Force and ExchangeMonitor's Radwaste Summit Advisory Committee. She also is a member of ANS, the Institute for Nuclear Materials Management (INMM), and U.S. Women in Nuclear (U.S. WIN).

A Northwest Florida native currently residing near Nashville, Tennessee, McMurrian received a Bachelor's degree in finance and an MBA from Florida State University.



Janine Migden-Ostrander
Institute for Energy Democracy Fellow
Former Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Janine Migden-Ostrander has over four decades of experience in the energy field. Most recently, Janine was a Principal at the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) where she focused on regulatory issues and worked on power sector transformation. Some of her major projects included: advising and assisting the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau, from its creation in 2015 until she left RAP in 2021 on a variety of cutting-edge issues including microgrid regulations and performance incentive mechanism; assisting Arkansas develop comprehensive energy efficiency programs as part of the Clean Energy Ministerial; the Finding Common Ground Project which brought leading environmental and regulatory stakeholders together to discuss and develop pathways on regulatory issues; and many others.

From 2004 – 2011, Janine served as Ohio Consumers' Counsel and represented Ohio's 4.4 million residential households on electric, gas, telephone and water issues. In this role, Janine focused on rate affordability for all customers, the promotion of distributed energy resource options for customers, low-income customer protections, broadband for rural and disenfranchised communities; and administrative due process for consumers in the regulatory process. In her capacity as the Consumers' Counsel, Janine oversaw the policy and advocacy positions in the many hundreds of cases in which the Consumers' Counsel participated.

Janine worked at Enron as a Senior Director of Government Affairs where she was responsible for leading the Corporation's efforts to deregulate the electric and gas industry in the Midwest. This included working on legislation and regulations to implement deregulation in addition to working with the Enron business units to offer deregulated services.

During the course of her career, Janine has litigated cases involving all aspects of utility regulation for consumer and environmental groups, from rate cases to integrated resource planning.

Janine received her J.D., from Capital University Law School, in Columbus, OH, a B.A from the State University of New York, Plattsburg, New York, December and a Certificat de la Langue et Civilisation Francais from La Sorbonne, Paris.



William E. Mojica
Senior Vice President, Gas Operations
NiSource Corporate Services

William E. Mojica serves as the Senior Vice President of Gas Operations at NiSource Corporate Services, where he leads gas operations across NiSource's six-state service territory. NiSource is a premier regulated utility, delivering natural gas to approximately 3.3 million customers across six states and electricity to about 500,000 customers in Indiana under the Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands.

With over 25 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, William began his career as an engineer and has since held a range of technical and leadership positions. His expertise spans multiple disciplines, including engineering, operations and maintenance, investment planning, process safety, strategy and risk management, safety management, construction and project management, as well as environmental

engineering and compliance. Throughout his career, he has remained committed to safety, operational excellence and continuous improvement in the energy sector.

William holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arizona and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. He is a graduate of the Stanford University Executive Leadership Development Program. He is actively engaged in the industry, serving on the Board of Directors for the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) and NIPSCO Holdings II. He also contributes to his local community as a member of the Board of Directors for Lifecare Alliance, an organization dedicated to providing essential health and nutrition services to residents of Central Ohio.

Additionally, William plays a key role in advancing gas-electric reliability through his service on the NARUC Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR) Taskforce, which brings together state regulators and industry leaders to develop solutions that enhance the reliability of the nation's gas and electric energy systems. His industry engagement extends to the American Gas Association (AGA), where he serves on the Managing Committee. In 2025 he was appointed to the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).



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.



John G. Newsom
Administrator, Division of Water
City of Columbus, Ohio

John is the Administrator of the Division of Water for the City of Columbus. His purview includes the City's water plants, reservoirs, wells, tanks, booster stations and distribution network. The Division has an approximate strength of 500 employees and provides service to 26 entities in Central Ohio. In addition, John is currently the president of the Ohio Water Reuse Chapter. Prior to joining the Division of Water, John served as the Administrator for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage for the City of Columbus. John holds degrees in Natural Resources and Civil Engineering from the Ohio State University and a MBA from Capital University. John is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio.



Mark Olson
Manager, Reliability Assessments
North American Electric Reliability
Corporation (NERC).

Mark oversees the long-term and seasonal reliability assessments that NERC produces are widely used by industry, regulators, and energy policymakers for informing decisions about the current and future adequacy and reliability of the North American electricity grid. Since joining NERC in 2012, Mark has led several projects for developing reliability standards to reduce operating, cyber, and physical security

risks to the North American bulk power system.

Before joining NERC, Mark was a career officer in the U.S. Navy. He has a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy. He holds a Professional Engineer license in the State of Georgia.



Karen Onaran
Vice President
Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON)

Karen advocates for policies benefiting large industrial consumers of electric energy before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Department of Energy (DOE), the North American Reliability Corporation (NERC), and Congress.

Prior to joining ELCON, Karen was the Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs at Edison Electric Institute (EEI) where she focused on federal electric transmission policy issues, supporting investor-owned utilities on transmission planning and investment issues, as well as wholesale market operations, to promote policies geared towards electric transmission's role in providing safe, reliable, cost-effective, and increasingly clean energy to consumers. Prior to her 10 years at EEI, Karen was a paralegal for 16 years in Washington D.C. focusing on energy project finance and federal regulatory compliance.

Karen is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and received her Master of Business Administration degree from Johns Hopkins University. Karen lives in Los Angeles. with her husband, Bryce, and beagle, Stanley.



Caroline Palmer
Principal Associate
Synapse Energy Economics

Caroline Palmer provides expert witness and consulting services on behalf of public interest clients in regulatory proceedings. She specializes in electric utility cost of service, class revenue apportionment, advanced rate design, decoupling, and distributed generation interconnection, cost allocation, and compensation. Her work focuses on ratepayer protection and pricing that

incentivizes consumers to manage their electricity usage in line with the needs of the evolving power system.

Caroline has sponsored testimony in Massachusetts, Maine, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. She has evaluated and recommended alternative methodologies in embedded and marginal cost of service studies in jurisdictions including Alaska, Utah, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Nevada. Caroline has also analyzed and proposed alternatives to utility revenue apportionment, the subjective step linking cost of service and rate design, in Indiana, Maryland, and Utah. She has developed alternative rate designs for residential, commercial and industrial, and electric vehicle customers, countered residential fixed charge increases, designed successor net metering tariffs, and proposed time of use periods in multiple jurisdictions. She has been a panelist at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

Caroline holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley and a BS in Science, Technology, and International Affairs from Georgetown University.



Hon. Dennis P. Deters
Commissioner
Ohio Public Utilities Commission

Dennis P. Deters was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) by Governor Mike DeWine in 2019 and reappointed to a second term in 2021.

Prior to joining the PUCO, Commissioner Deters served in local government for the last decade, most recently as a judge on Ohio's First District Court of Appeals. Deters also has served as a Colerain Township Trustee, a Hamilton County Commissioner, and a trial attorney representing local government

interests.

In these positions, Deters oversaw local regulation of basic public service, adopted and enforced administrative regulation of local services, worked to solve public service disputes, and represented individuals and businesses navigating government regulation.

Commissioner Deters is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Organization of PJM States, Inc (OPSI). In June 2024, Commissioner Deters was elected as First Vice President of MACRUC. In October 2024, he was appointed Vice President of OPSI by the PJM States. He currently serves on the NARUC Committee on International Relations, which manages outreach activities across the globe, including partnerships with numerous countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and Bangladesh. He is also a member of the NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure, which analyzes and supports protection of the nation's energy and telecommunications infrastructure. Deters focuses extensively on cybersecurity as it relates to utility services.

Recently, Commissioner Deters was selected by his peers to work with on a new Federal and State Current Issues Taskforce, a joint effort between NARUC and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission made up of 10 Utility Commissioners from across the United States. This Taskforce, the N10, is working to find solutions to challenges created by multijurisdictional regulation of the Nation's energy systems and markets.

Commissioner Deters has earned his Bachelor of Arts, English and government from the University of Notre Dame, and his law degree from the University of Cincinnati.



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.



Justin Schneider
Director, Business Development
Indiana American Water

Justin Schneider serves as director of business development for Indiana American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and wastewater services to approximately 1.5 million people. He leads and coordinates all business development activities, focusing on providing solutions for water and wastewater utilities, primarily through acquisition of the utility assets of community, investor-owned and member-owned utilities.

Schneider previously held roles in government and external affairs after joining Indiana American Water in 2019. In those roles, he led strategy development and engagement on policy issues and collaborated with external stakeholders to advocate for policy issues that support utility customers, growth and economic development. He has also served as a member of the legal team, providing legal guidance to the Indiana American Water leadership.

Schneider has a bachelor's degree in agribusiness management from Purdue University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He is currently serving as chair of the Water Utility Council for the Indiana Section AWWA. Justin and his wife Tammy, spend their free time supporting the busy athletic, academic and social calendars of their two teenage sons.



Cindy Schonhaut
Director
Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate

Ms. Schonhaut was appointed Director of the Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA) on January 2, 2014 (previously the Office of the Consumer Counsel). With a staff shortly becoming ten in number, working along with five attorneys from the Attorney General's Office, she is responsible for representing the public interest, specifically the interests of residential, agricultural, and small business consumers in cases involving electric, natural gas and telecommunications utilities. The UCA represents consumer interests in cases before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, federal regulatory agencies, and the courts.

Prior to her position with the State of Colorado, Ms. Schonhaut was a telecommunications executive, attorney and consultant and an expert on telecommunications legislative and regulatory matters, appearing before state and federal governments. She had the privilege of testifying on behalf of competitive telecommunications companies before the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. Earlier in her career, she held high-level positions with the Federal Communications Commission.

Ms. Schonhaut is currently serving her second term as Secretary of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). She previously served as Vice Chair of a competitive telecommunications trade association, now known as Incompass.

Ms. Schonhaut received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University and a Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law.



Justin Schott
Director
Energy Equity Project

The Energy Equity Project, an organization dedicated to ending energy shutoffs, ensuring universal energy affordability and reliability, and working with frontline communities to secure a fair share of clean energy benefits.

Schott led EEP's work to develop the first national energy equity framework, an atlas of 150 energy equity measures and best practices. Over 15 months, he convened 10 listening sessions and coordinated an interdisciplinary team of 40 researchers, community advocates, and regulators to assess metrics and develop implementation guidance.

Schott is a thought leader on energy equity and has been quoted by more than a dozen public media sources, published opinion pieces, given more than 40 public presentations, and published work on energy equity in academic journals. He has served as an expert witness in eight utility rate cases and integrated resource plan proceedings.

Prior to joining EEP, Schott served as executive director of the Detroit non-profit EcoWorks (2015-20), contributed to the City of Detroit's Sustainability Action Agenda and climate plans, and was founding director of the Youth Energy Squad (2008-2015). Schott holds a Masters from University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, where he is now an adjunct lecturer for energy and environmental justice.



Ben Shapiro
Principal, Transportation
RMI

Mr. Shapiro helps to lead RMI's Transportation program, focusing primarily on addressing challenges to EV charging infrastructure deployment and grid readiness to support it. Working with public, private, and nonprofit partners Ben leads research on cost-effective strategies to prepare the electric distribution system for EV charging, and directs the development of transportation electrification strategies and roadmaps. His expertise spans electric utility transportation and distributed energy resource (DER) strategy and analysis, utility regulation, and stakeholder facilitation and convening. Prior to joining RMI, Ben worked for consultancy Energy and Environmental Economics (E3), managing transportation electrification, DER, and electricity rate design projects for clients across the electric power and transportation sectors.



William A. Spratley Bill
Ohio's First Consumer Counsel
Founder and First President, NASUCA

An attorney since 1973, Bill was the State of Ohio's first Consumers' Counsel, serving from 1977-1993. In that role he helped found the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) and served as NASUCA's first President from 1979-1981.

He led the statewide non-profit Green Energy Ohio since 2001 based in Columbus. His vast national and statewide network of contacts, including federal, state and local governments, national organizations and Chairing SOLAR 2007 - the 36th National Solar Conference continue to gain new credibility and visibility for GEO. In May 2012, he received the prestigious Charles Greeley Abbot Award from the American Solar Energy Society (ASES). In July 2015, he became a Fellow of ASES. Bill currently serves on the ASES Board of Directors. He also received the National Green Power Leadership Award from the Center for Resource Solutions in 2007 and the Wind Advocacy Award in 2006 from the U.S. Wind Powering America Program of the U.S. Department of Energy.

He served on U.S. Department of Energy advisory boards under Presidents Carter, H.W. Bush and Clinton. A College of Wooster graduate, Bill's J.D. is from Ohio State University's College of Law.



David Springe
Executive Director
National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates

David Springe is the Executive Director of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). NASUCA's 61 member offices represent the interests of utility consumers in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Barbados, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica.

Prior to assuming his duties at NASUCA in 2015, Mr. Springe served for thirteen years as Consumer Counsel for the Kansas Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB), the statutory advocate for residential and small commercial utility customers in proceedings before the Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas courts, and the Kansas legislature. Mr. Springe spent nine years as an economist and expert witness for both CURB and the Kansas Corporation Commission before taking over as Consumer Counsel at CURB. While at CURB, Mr. Springe was active in NASUCA, serving as President from 2007-2009, and he continues to represent consumer interests on numerous advisory boards, task forces and working groups.

Mr. Springe received his M.A. in Economics and Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas.



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.



Jeff Thomas
Principal Technical Leader
EPRI

From 2019-2022 he co-led an EPRI project to characterize risk to the power industry from changing surface water conditions. Since April of 2022, he has served a leadership role in EPRI's Climate Resilience and Adaptation Initiative (Climate READi) assessing potential vulnerabilities from climate hazards to power company assets and evaluating resilience opportunities.



Bruce Weston
Former Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Bruce Weston's career spans nearly 45 years in public utilities law, with 33 years serving the public at the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and the rest serving clients in private practice. He got his start as a legal intern in 1978 and later as counsel, upon his hiring by the first Ohio Consumers' Counsel (and first NASUCA President) William Spratley. In 2012, the OCC Board appointed Bruce as the fourth Ohio Consumers' Counsel. He retired in 2023.

As Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Bruce's consumer protection priorities included: reforming the process for selecting Ohio commissioners; improving justice for consumers in government regulation of utilities; safeguarding at-risk Ohioans regarding their utility services; protecting utility consumers from the legislative and regulatory scandals involving FirstEnergy; and enabling competitive markets instead of monopolies and subsidies, where (and if) competition is effective for consumer protection.

In 2023, Bruce was honored with the John Glenn Outstanding Public Service Award by The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs. That same year he was honored with the Robert F. Manifold Lifetime Service Award by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Cincinnati. He earned his law degree from The Ohio State University College of Law.



Maureen Willis
Consumers' Counsel and Agency Director
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Maureen Willis [became the Agency's fifth Consumers' Counsel on Oct. 1, 2023](#). She previously served as Acting Legal Director starting in April of 2023. During the previous eight years, Maureen served as OCC's Senior Counsel. Maureen specializes in the litigation of complex electric cases but has diverse legal experience and has served on cases across all utility industries. She has advocated for Ohio consumers in numerous appeals before the Ohio Supreme Court.

Maureen began her career at the OCC in 1982 as a legal intern and was hired as a Staff Attorney upon receiving her juris doctor degree from Capital University Law School in 1983. Prior to earning her JD, Maureen graduated from the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Maureen

left Columbus and when she returned a few years later, she rejoined the OCC as an Assistant Consumers' Counsel. In 2004, after time away from OCC, Maureen returned to OCC at the request of the third Consumers' Counsel. In her time away from OCC, Maureen continued to practice in the public utility field. Maureen worked for the Office of the People's Counsel (the Washington, D.C., consumer advocate on utility matters); Hahn, Loeser and Parks; the Office of the Ohio Attorney General as Special Counsel; and the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office.

Maureen was appointed the fifth Ohio Consumers' Counsel by the OCC Governing Board on June 30, 2023. In a press release issued on that day, Maureen said that "I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve Ohio's residential consumers as the fifth Consumer's Counsel. I will work hard to carry on the rich tradition of consumer advocacy that has been the hallmark of the Agency."