

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2024 MID-YEAR MEETING

Madison, Wisconsin

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

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



Lauren Azar
Founder, AzarLaw

Lauren provides legal services in the electric industry including business, regulatory and policy advice, as well as project advocacy and permitting. Among other things, she is currently assisting utilities to develop a path to deep decarbonization and working within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprint to improve transmission planning and cost allocation. Azar currently sits on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Electricity Advisory Committee.

Azar served as the Senior Advisor to the DOE Secretary from 2011-13, advising him on the electric industry and its institutional barriers. She also co- led negotiations among nine federal agencies, to overhaul and streamline their evaluation of electric transmission.

From 2007-11, Azar was a Wisconsin Public Service Commissioner. As President of the Organization of MISO states, in 2009, Azar chaired both the regulator and the MISO-stakeholder processes that resulted in the development of 17 multi-value projects (MVPs). In 2010, she organized the states and Canadian provinces east of the Rockies and led them through the first-of-its-kind planning in the Eastern Transmission Interconnection.



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.



Stan Blackwell
Director – Data Center Practice
Dominion Energy Virginia / North Carolina

Stan Blackwell is responsible for Dominion Energy's data center practice and the management of data center customers throughout Virginia and North Carolina. Stan has been with Dominion for 28 years in a variety of leadership roles including the following: Finance, Accounting, Electrical Design, Renewable Product Development, Contract Management, Key Account Management, and Economic Development. Before joining Dominion Energy, Stan spent 9 years in the computer industry with AT&T and NCR in various financial roles supporting competitive sales organizations.

Stan is currently a board member of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, and a past board member of the Central Virginia Better Business Bureau, and the Central Virginia Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Stan has a Finance degree, an MBA, and holds a CPA license.



Ben Bolton
Senior Energy Programs Administrator
Office of Energy Programs
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Ben is embedded at TEMA as the Primary Emergency Services Coordinator for Energy and his agency. Since 2018, Bolton serves as co-chair of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) Energy Security Committee and serves on FEMA's Mitigation Framework Leadership Group. Living in Nashville, TN, Ben holds a B.S. in biology and B.A. in English from Birmingham-Southern College and has completed the National Emergency Management Advanced

Academy.



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.



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.



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.



Allison Clements
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Commissioner Allison Clements joined the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in December 2020 following a range of public and private sector experience in energy law and grid modernization policy. Prior to her current role, she worked at Energy Foundation, Goodgrid LLC, and Natural Resources Defense Council. She began her legal career in private practice at Troutman Sanders LLP and Chadbourne & Parke LLP. Over the course of her career, her clients have included utilities, independent power producers, developers, lenders, nonprofits, and philanthropies.

Commissioner Clements has also served as a federal energy expert in several capacities, including as a member of a National Academies of Sciences committee on grid resilience and as a clinical visiting lecturer at Yale Law School. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctorate from The George Washington University Law School.

Commissioner Clements grew up in Dayton, Ohio and now lives in Washington, DC with her husband and two children.



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.



Erin Ford Faulhaber
Deputy Director
Arizona Residential Utility Consumer Office

Erin Ford Faulhaber is Deputy Director of the Arizona Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO), representing the interests of residential utility ratepayers in cases and policy matters before the Arizona Corporation Commission. As Deputy Director, Erin shapes policy positions and oversees strategy and case management. Before RUCO, Erin spent seven years at the Arizona Corporation Commission as Policy Advisor to Commissioners Anna Tovar and Boyd Dunn. In her role as Policy Advisor, Erin participated in hundreds of rate cases, policy dockets, and rulemakings. In addition, Erin spent seven years as an attorney in private practice focusing on appeals and commercial litigation. She holds a J.D. from the University of Arizona and a B.A. from Wellesley College.



Jennifer Flandermeyer
Energy Industry Advocate and Policy Expert

Ms. Flandermeyer has worked in the Energy industry since 1997. Her most recent role, Director, Cybersecurity Public Policy for NextEra Energy and is focused on cybersecurity legislative and regulatory actions in federal and state jurisdictions. While this role broadly addresses numerous federal departments and agencies, it is largely dedicated to security and resilience matters that began with critical infrastructure protection including actions at FERC and NERC.

Her previous role, Director Federal Affairs at Evergy, focused on federal affairs and regulatory activities related to reliability, resilience, and security. In 1999, she joined Evergy bringing with her several years of finance and accounting experience coupled with knowledge of the energy industry. Since joining the company, she held positions in Internal Audit and led the Strategic Business Planning, Process and Financial Management team in Delivery (T&D) Operations. In 2009, she accepted the opportunity to establish and lead the company's FERC and NERC compliance team responsible for the enterprise regulatory compliance function for the company. The program was eventually expanded to include additional regulatory bodies and functions. In 2015, she was promoted to her current role to focus on strategic policy advocacy for federal affairs. Prior to joining Evergy, she worked for Black and Veatch in Energy consultancy.

Outside of NextEra Energy, Ms. Flandermeyer serves as a Director for the Midwest Reliability Organization. She serves as the Chair of the NERC Member Representatives Committee and Chair Emeritus of the NERC Compliance and Certification Committee. In addition, she serves as the Co-Chair for several NERC technical task forces and previously served on the NERC Standards Committee and NERC Standards Drafting Teams. Ms. Flandermeyer serves in several roles for industry organizations including EEI's Reliability Executive Advisory Committee, EEI's Security and Technology Executive

Advisory Committee, and in an advisory capacity for the North American Transmission Forum's Risk, Controls and Compliance Practices Group Leadership team, the North American Generator Forum as well as numerous large TOP / GOP collaboration groups. Ms. Flandermeyer previously served as the President of the Rose Brooks Center Board of Directors, an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence, in addition to many other community activities.

Ms. Flandermeyer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy from William Jewell College, a master's degree in business administration from Rockhurst University and Certifications in Risk Management and Compliance and Ethics.



Robert Gramlich
Founder and President
Grid Strategies, LLC

Rob Gramlich is President of Grid Strategies LLC, a consultancy focused on transmission and power market reforms for a low carbon grid. He co-founded Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT Coalition), and the Future Power Markets Forum. Rob previously oversaw transmission and power market policy for the American Wind Energy Association as SVP and Interim CEO, served as Economic Advisor to FERC Chairman Pat Wood III, and was Senior Economist at PJM Interconnection. Rob has a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree from UC Berkeley and a BA with Honors in Economics from Colby College.



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.



John Gunnells
Senior Manager, State Affairs
American Gas Association

John Gunnells serves as the Senior Manager, State Affairs with the American Gas Association. In this role, John is the primary liaison between AGA and state public utility commissions nationwide. Prior to joining AGA, John served the Georgia Public Service Commission as an analyst in its Natural Gas Unit, where he was a project manager for rate cases and was the legislative liaison for the unit. John received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from Birmingham-Southern College, and he received a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in policy analysis and evaluation from Georgia State University.



Robert Kelter
Senior Attorney, Energy Efficiency Program
Environmental Law & Policy Center,

Rob advocates for stronger energy efficiency programs and implementation strategies in the Midwest and on national policies. He is an experienced energy and public utilities regulatory attorney, who served as the litigation director of the Illinois Citizens Utility Board handling a wide array of electricity and natural gas rate and rulemaking cases and issues. Before that, he worked at Environmental Action and the Office of the People's Counsel in Washington, DC.



Dan LeFevers
Director, State and Consumer Programs
GTI Energy

Dan is currently Director of State and Consumer Programs at GTI Energy. Dan is responsible for engaging Utility Commissioners across the country to provide education regarding the value of consumer-focused energy R&D. Dan also interfaces with regulatory and marketing staff of energy utilities to shape national collaborative energy R&D programs. Dan was previously the Vice President of Federal Public Affairs for Waste Management and Director of Washington Operations for GTI. Dan has over 20 years' experience with energy policy and projects including extensive collaboration with scientists and engineers to develop, deploy and demonstrate new energy technologies. Most recently Dan is coordinating hydrogen related R&D and project development.

Dan has a BA in speech communications and a master's degree in organizational leadership both from Lewis University in Illinois.



Karen Lusson
Senior Attorney
National Consumer Law Center

Karen focuses on energy and utility issues that affect low-income customers. Previously she was the assistant bureau chief in the Public Utilities Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Her duties included representing Illinois residential ratepayers in litigation involving utility rate increase requests, rate design, ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs, mergers, rulemakings and low income customer affordability issues. Prior to that, Karen was a staff attorney at the Illinois Citizens Utility Board and an assistant public counsel at the Illinois Office of Public Counsel. She received her degree in Journalism and Political Science from Indiana University and her law degree from DePaul University College of Law.

Karen co-authored, with fellow NCLC senior attorney [Alys Cohen](#), the [Ensuring Consumer Protections in the Delivery of Energy-Efficiency Financing and Renewable-Energy Programs](#) chapter in *What's Possible: Investing Now for Prosperous, Sustainable Neighborhoods*.



Bill Malcolm
Government Affairs Director (Utilities),
AARP (National Office)

Bill Malcolm is a Government Affairs Director for Government Affairs where he leads state utility advocacy regarding electricity, natural gas, and water. He supervises a small team of consultants who help state offices participate in utility rate cases and tariff matters (and take positions on legislation) advocating for fair, affordable, and reliable utility rates and services for persons over 50.

Prior to joining AARP 10 years ago, Bill worked for 2 years as a journalist including having columns in an energy newsletter and a local publication.

Bill was a founding employee of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the nation's first FERC-approved regional transmission organization where he created the state regulatory affairs program.

Bill previously worked in rates and then government relations for PG&E, the nation's largest combined gas and electric utility. He helped create the first low income rate program, California Cares, which provides a 35% discount on utility bills for low income customers. The initial program was linked to LIHEAP enrollment, so recipients got both program benefits with one application. Income was verified and processing was handled by the California Department of Administration in order to jump start marketing and avoid fraudulent participation.

Bill also worked at Pacific Power in Portland doing rate case cost studies. He started his career as an intern at Seattle City Light as an economist. Bill holds a MA in economics from the University of Washington and a BA in economics from UC Santa Cruz.

In his spare time, Bill is a travel writer, leads wildflower walks, is an advocate for passenger rail and transit, and is an avid bicyclist. He is also editor of the employee newsletter for the LGBTQ+ AARP employee resource group (PRISM).

He can be found on X (Twitter) (@RTO Watchdog), Facebook, and Linked In (where he has 3,700 contacts). He can be reached at wmalcolm@aarp.org.



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 Snyder as the State Public Administrator for eight years that he held concurrently with his position in the Special Litigation Division. He has litigated utility cases at the Attorney General's Office for over 20+ years and has been the Division Chief for over 6 years.



Kristy Nieto
Commissioner
Public Service Commissioner of Wisconsin

Kristy Nieto was appointed by Governor Tony Evers to serve as a Commissioner on January 16, 2024. Kristy served in a variety of roles at the PSC for more than a decade before being appointed to the Commission. She previously served as Administrator of the Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis (DERA), Administrator of the Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs (DACEA), Deputy Administrator of the Commission's business operations division, and Director of the Consumer Affairs Bureau. She previously served as a Wisconsin representative on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Advanced Nuclear States Collaborative.

Prior to her work at the Commission, Kristy managed the bilingual consumer protection program for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Kristy holds a bachelor's degree from Hamline University in St. Paul in Spanish and Writing, and a master's degree from UW-Madison in Spanish Literature and Linguistics. Kristy lives in Monona with her husband, Sergio, and their son.



Angela O'Brien
Deputy Consumers' Counsel
Office of the Ohio Consumer's Counsel

Angela O'Brien was appointed the Deputy Consumers' Counsel in June 2023, by the Consumers' Counsel Governing Board. Angela is also Acting Legal and Analytical Director. She is one of the Board's two appointees for leading the Agency, the other being the Consumers' Counsel (Agency director). Her leadership initiatives include achieving justice, equity and regulatory reform for residential utility consumers, as stated in OCC's Vision.

Prior to her appointment, Angela served Ohioans for four and a half years as an Assistant Consumers' Counsel. She was named an OCC Employee of the Quarter in 2022, for the excellence of her regulatory case work on behalf of consumers. In 2015, Angela and her family relocated

from out of state to the Columbus, Ohio area. Before moving to Central Ohio, Angela was in the private practice of law. She practiced law for a decade at the Chicago office of global law firm Mayer Brown. Earlier, she practiced law with Barnes & Thornburg in Indianapolis. Her work at both firms included representing telephone companies and competitive energy suppliers, appearing before state public utility commissions in Indiana and Illinois. Angela earned her B.A. from the University of Houston and her J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis.



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 (EEl) 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 EEl, 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 Washington D.C. with her husband, Bryce, and beagle, Stanley.



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.



Thomas S. Popik
Chairman and President
Foundation for Resilient Societies

Mr. Popik is an advocate for resilient and sustainable electric grids under both the cost-of-service and market-based models. He has appeared before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Canadian Parliament, and the legislatures of multiple U.S. states and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Bloomberg*, *Politico*, *The Economist*, *Reuters*, *Newsweek*, *Marketplace*, and *USA Today*. His published work on electric grids includes articles in *Foreign Affairs*, "Ukraine's Coming Electricity Crisis," and the *Journal of Critical Infrastructure Policy*, "The 2021 Texas Blackouts: Causes, Consequences, and Cures." Mr. Popik holds a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. In his early career, Mr. Popik served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, with a final rank of Captain.



Kaja Rebane
Senior Associate - Electricity Program
RMI

Kaja has over a decade of experience in utility regulation, much of which has focused on the use of performance-based regulation (PBR) to support affordability, decarbonization, and social equity. Kaja has supported regulatory decision making in various jurisdictions in the US and other countries, has provided technical assistance and trainings to advocates, and has conducted research on ways to improve affordability, shift utility incentives, and maintain access to vital utility services. Prior to entering the wonky world of utility regulation, Kaja spent time as a caricaturist, disability aide, and grassroots organizer.



Joseph Rosenthal
Senior Policy Advisory
Office of Public Participation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Joe Rosenthal is the Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Public Participation (OPP) at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In this role, Joe works with the OPP Director and OPP's growing team to encourage broader participation in and understanding of FERC matters, including through the development of educational products. Prior to his present role, Joe was in private practice in environmental and utility law with a mid-size Connecticut firm (1996-2003) and then had long experience (2003-19) as a Principal Attorney representing the Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel in matters before FERC and ISO-New England. Joe also enjoyed two years (2020-21) as a Lead Analyst for Duke Energy working on electric vehicle programs, advanced electric pricing and rate design, solar valuation, and other topics. Joe is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton (B.A., M.A., Mathematics) and Boston College Law School.



Nicholas W. Santillo Jr.
Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer
American Water

Nicholas Santillo Jr. is American Water's Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer leading the company's physical and cybersecurity, and information technology programs. Nicholas has been with American Water for more than 24 years and held multiple technology, operational, and leadership roles including the Chief Audit Executive role responsible for the company's internal Audit program. He has over 25 years' experience in risk management, compliance, cybersecurity and the water utility industry and holds a Bachelor's

degree in Organizational Security and Management and is Board certified by ASIS in Physical Security, Security Management, and Investigations.

Nicholas is the former Chair of the Water Sector Coordinating Council, National Association of Water Companies Safety and Security Committee, and the ASIS Utilities Security Council. He was also a Board member of the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC).

Nicholas has served as a member of multiple federal and state committees including the AWWA Security Risk and Resilience Standard Committee, and multiple Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Committee (CIPAC) workgroups.



Susan L. Satter
Chief, Public Utilities Bureau
Office of Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul

Susan L. Satter has more than 30 years of experience representing the People of the State of Illinois and residential consumers in state and federal administrative, judicial, and legislative proceedings involving telecommunications, energy, and water services. She is currently Chief of the Public Utilities Bureau in Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office. She joined the Public Utilities Bureau in 2001. Before that she represented the Citizens Utility Board starting in 1990. Among the issues she has addressed are rates and prices, alternative regulation and multi-year rates, energy regulation and competition, telecommunications regulation and competition,

cost of capital, infrastructure investment and grid plans, and corporate reorganizations.



Matthew J. Satterwhite
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Services
American Electric Power

Matthew Satterwhite is senior vice president, Regulatory Services. In this position, he is responsible for AEP's regulatory activities before 11 state regulatory commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Satterwhite previously served as president and chief operating officer for Kentucky Power from 2016 to 2018, overseeing distribution operations serving 169,000 customers in eastern Kentucky as well as the operating unit's safety,

customer services, marketing, communications, community affairs, governmental affairs and regulatory functions.

Prior to that, he served as senior counsel in AEP's Legal Department, where he was responsible for regulatory cases in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky. He has argued cases before the Supreme Court of Ohio, including defense of AEP's energy efficiency and peak demand reduction plan. Prior to joining AEP in 2008, Satterwhite served as the Public Utility Master Commissioner at the Supreme Court of Ohio for two years. Satterwhite started his career at the Ohio Attorney General's office as an assistant attorney general representing the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. He then joined the commission staff as legal director of its Service, Monitoring and Enforcement Department, overseeing staff attorneys, investigators and auditors responsible for industry regulation.

He serves as a board member for the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC), where he is a member of the Development Committee and Creative Advancement (Grants and Services) Committee. He also serves as a Board member on the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA). Satterwhite is the AEP Executive Sponsor for the Women's International Network of Utility Professionals (WINUP) and Toastmasters. He is also a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE).

Satterwhite holds a degree in political science from the University of Kansas and a juris doctor degree from Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife, Cathy, have three daughters.



Angela Schaben
Utility Regulatory Auditor
Missouri Office of the Public Counsel

Ms Schaben has twenty years of experience in State Government. Ms. Schaben's roles over the years ranged from accounting, budget, and grants management to data management, report development, and information technology. She holds a M.B.A. and a B.S. in Accounting and is particularly fond of researching the evolving trends of technology and its security.



Josh Schellenberg
Principal and COO
H&S Insights

Josh Schellenberg is a Berkeley Lab Affiliate with more than 15 years of experience in the electric utility industry. His expertise includes benefit-cost analyses for utility resilience plans and major transmission investments designed to mitigate the risks of climate change, natural disasters, physical security, and other threats. He also has expertise in the value of reliability, including development of Berkeley Lab's Interruption Cost Estimate (ICE) Calculator, which has informed over \$50B of grid modernization investments. In addition, he has conducted studies of more than 20 DER pilots and programs, including traditional demand response, dynamic pricing, electric vehicles, energy storage, and Independent System Operator market integration. Josh holds an M.B.A. from The Wharton School and an M.A. in International and Development Economics from the University of San Francisco.



Aidan Glaser Schoff
Synapse Energy Economics

Aidan joined Synapse in June 2023. He is primarily focused on utility regulation, rate design, and grid modernization. While at Synapse, he has provided analysis supporting submitted testimony and comments covering grid modernization, solar compensation mechanisms, rate cases, and performance-based regulation.

Mr. Glaser Schoff previously worked at Christensen Associates as a Staff Economist working on litigation and energy issues. He conducted surveys of American and Canadian utility tariffs covering residential, industrial, and electric vehicle rates. He evaluated the load impacts of San Diego Gas & Electric's voluntary residential time-of-use and critical peak pricing rates.

Mr. Glaser Schoff holds a BA in Physics from Vassar College and an MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics with a concentration in Resource and Energy Demand Analysis from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.



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

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



Nicole Sitaraman
Director, Office of Public Participation (OPP)
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Nicole Sitaraman was appointed to serve as Director of the Office of Public Participation (OPP) at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in May 2024. Ms. Sitaraman joined the Commission as the inaugural Deputy Director of OPP in February 2022 and served as Acting Director of the office from March 2023 through April 2024. She has 20 years of experience in litigation, consumer and civil rights advocacy, energy policy and stakeholder engagement.

Prior to joining FERC, she served in legal and policy advocacy roles such as Vice President of External Affairs and Policy at Sustainable Capital Advisors, Senior

Manager of Public Policy at Sunrun, and Assistant People's Counsel in the Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia.

Ms. Sitaraman has received honors from We Act for Environmental Justice, Grist.org and Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy (WRISE). Ms. Sitaraman serves on the Advisory Board of the Yale Center for Business and the Environment. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Yale University in 2000 and J.D. at Boston University School of Law in 2004.



Katherine Stainken
Technical Leader, Electric Transportation team
Electric Power Research Institute

Katherine works on the regulatory and policy issues on the grid side under the EVs2Scale 2030 Initiative. Prior to this role she was the VP Policy at the Electrification Coalition, where she led and managed the policy team at the federal and state levels, including legislative and regulatory policies. She is a Fulbright Scholar with a BS in Chemistry and German from Boston College, and has her Masters in Global Environmental Policy from American University.



Samir Succar
Senior Director
ICF

Samir is a Senior Director in ICF's energy practice. His work focuses on distribution system planning, grid modernization strategy, and DER integration. He has engaged with a broad range of clients on aspects of distribution system operations, DER aggregation, optimization, and orchestration. He has supported efforts such as the NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning, the DOE Transmission-Distribution-Customer Operational Coordination initiative, the NARUC Utility Data Sharing Collaborative, as well as numerous integrated distribution planning studies, and state technical assistance efforts. He has a B.A. in Physics from Oberlin College and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University.



Mark Toney
Executive Director
TURN—The Utility Reform Network

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

Mark was appointed by Governor Newsom, in 2020, to the Board of Trustees of the California State Bar, currently serves on National Whistleblower Center board, and previously on boards of ACLU Northern California, and California Shakespeare Theatre.

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



Justin Vargas, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Cybersecurity & Risk Management
Illinois Commerce Commission

Mr. Vargas is a Policy Advisor, in the Office of Cybersecurity and Risk Management at the Illinois Commerce Commission. Justin has previously worked in other roles related to government and policy work at the municipal level. Justin holds a B.A in History from the University of Chicago, as well an M.S in Cybersecurity and a J.D from DePaul University.