



UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON** LAW CENTER

Rewiring the Future: How Technology, Policy, and Investment Are Empowering the New Electricity Era



9th Annual North American Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Conference

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Program | 1:00 - 5:30 PM Central Time

Reception | 5:30 - 7:00 PM Central Time

John O'Quinn Law Building
Foundation Room

Approved for 4 hours of Texas MCLE credit

Sponsored by: Blank Rome, EENR, UH Energy, Susan L. Bickley, and Gina S. Warren

Agenda

12:15 PM

Registration begins

12:55 - 1:00 PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Susan L. Bickley

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Gina S. Warren

Professor of Law

A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies

Co-director of EENR

University of Houston Law Center

1:00 - 1:45 PM

Fireside Chat

Jeffrey Dennis

Former DOE Director of Grid Transmission

1:50 - 3:00 PM

The Business of Energy Panel

Moderator: Ryan Purpura

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Panelists:

Will Glover, Gowling WLG

Hugh Maule, Gowling WLG

Gaurav Sen, Aurora Energy Research LLC

Jeffery Slotterback, PhiCap Advisors LLC

3:00 - 3:15 PM

Break and light refreshments

Agenda

3:15 - 3:25 PM

**Announce Winner of 2nd Annual EENR
Scholarship, Excellence in Energy and the
Environment (George Buckley)**

Susan L. Bickley

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Gina S. Warren

Professor of Law

A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies

Co-director of EENR

University of Houston Law Center

3:30 - 4:40 PM

Discussions with Dean Leonard M. Baynes

Moderator: Dean Leonard Baynes

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair

Professor of Law

University of Houston Law Center

Panelists:

Gregory Brown, Evolution Well Services LLC

Stephen Cox, Bristol Bay Industrial LLC

Cody Johnson, SCS Technologies LLC

Deonne Cunningham Nauls, Skylar Capital Management LP

Linda Primrose, Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

4:45 - 5:30 PM

Keynote Speaker

Richard L. Scheel

Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,
and Chief Risk Officer

Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)

BIOGRAPHIES



LEONARD M. BAYNES

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen

Distinguished Chair

Professor of Law

University of Houston Law Center

Leonard M. Baynes, now the longest serving law dean in Texas, made history in 2014 with his appointment as the first Black dean of the University of Houston Law Center. Dean Baynes is a first-generation college student and a first-generation American whose parents emigrated to the US from the small island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

During his deanship, the UH Law Center's entering credentials increased from a median LSAT score of 159 to 161 and a median GPA of 3.47 to 3.75. Also, under his leadership, the ultra-modern \$93 million state-of-the-art John M. O'Quinn Law Building opened in 2022. Dean Baynes initiated an award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Program designed to create opportunities for first-generation, economically challenged, and under-represented college students.

In 2020, Dean Baynes was named to the Lawyers of Color Power List by the Lawyers of Color Foundation. In 2022, he was recognized by the AALS with the Clyde Ferguson Award and by his alma mater, Columbia University School of Law, with the Paul Robeson Award. Dean Baynes has written more than 35 law review articles and coauthored a casebook entitled *Communication Law in the Public Interest* with Wolters Kluwer.

BIOGRAPHIES



SUSAN BICKLEY

Partner

Blank Rome LLP

Susan L. Bickley 30 years of civil trial and appellate experience in employment litigation for private and public employers, litigation involving commercial and business disputes, trade secret litigation, and the defense of claims against professionals. She represents a diverse range of

clients including publicly held corporations, smaller companies, and start-ups, as well as public entities and their officials.

In addition, Susan taught “Trial Advocacy” as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center from 2006 to 2010.

While in law school, she was a research editor for the Houston Law Review, and selected for membership in the Order of the Coif. At the University of Texas at Austin, she was selected for membership in Phi Beta Kappa, and designated a College Scholar based on academic achievement.

In 2010 and 2011, Susan received the President’s Award from the Houston Bar Association. Active in the community, she is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Houston Bar Foundation and a member of the Board of Directors of the UH Law Foundation and the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science. She previously served on the State Bar Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Committee and the State Bar Annual Meeting Committee.

Susan holds a number of leadership positions within Blank Rome. In addition to leading the labor & employment practice in Houston, she serves on Blank Rome’s Executive Committee, Chair Nominating Committee, Pro Bono Committee, Compensation Committee, Recruiting Committee, and Diversity & Inclusion Committee, and is a current Office Co-Chair for Blank Rome’s Houston Office. She previously served as a member of the firm’s Strategic Plan Committee and Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, the firm’s Nominating Committee, and is a past Chair of the Blank Rome Women’s Forum.

BIOGRAPHIES



GREGORY BROWN

General Counsel

Evolution Well Services LLC

Gregory Brown serves as Secretary and General Counsel for Evolution Well Services and its affiliated companies and has been with the company since its founding. Mr. Brown is responsible for the company's legal function, regulatory matters, governmental relations and administrative matters—handling acquisitions and divestitures, intellectual property, litigation, contract and other matters. From May 1996 until 2010, Mr. Brown served as a partner in the litigation and trial practice departments of the Houston offices of Jackson Walker L.L.P. and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Prior to practicing as an attorney, Mr. Brown served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. of the Louisiana Supreme Court in New Orleans. Mr. Brown received his law degree from Duke University School of Law and is a graduate of the University of New Orleans.

BIOGRAPHIES



GEORGE BUCKLEY

2L, University of Houston Law Center

George is a second-year law student at the University of Houston Law Center. Before starting law school, George worked for three years as an English teacher in the Fort Worth Independent School District, where he developed a passion for education and supporting the next generation.

At the University of Houston, George joined the Houston Law Review and became the Senior Notes and Comments Editor, a position that allows him to continue analyzing student writing and working with 1L and 2L students to improve their writing skills. George has also joined the University of Houston National Mock Trial Team, which has allowed him to compete in three competitions, finishing as a regional finalist for the American Association of Justice's Student Trial Advocacy Competition.

George's interest in federal regulation came about after his 1L course in Statutory Interpretation and Regulation taught by Professor Andrew Michaels, and George was spurred to write on regulation and renewable energy while taking Renewable Energy Law with Professor Gina Warren. This summer (2025), George will be working at Bracewell LLP for his second experience as a summer associate in their Houston office. George currently lives in Houston with his wife, Claire, and their dog Lasso.



STEPHEN COX

*Senior Vice President, General Counsel and
Chief Strategy Officer
Bristol Bay Industrial LLC*

Stephen Cox is Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Strategy Officer at Bristol Bay Industrial. Previously, Stephen served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas and as a Deputy Associate Attorney General for the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Before his service at the Justice Department, Stephen spent several years as counsel for Apache Corporation and as a senior associate at WilmerHale. He also served as a senior aide to the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Stephen clerked for the Hon. J.L. Edmondson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and he is a graduate of Texas A&M University and the University of Houston Law Center, where he graduated summa cum laude.

BIOGRAPHIES



JEFFERY DENNIS

Former Department of Energy Director of Grid Transmission

Jeff Dennis is the former Deputy Director for Transmission at the Grid Deployment Office (GDO). Jeff leads GDO's Transmission Division, which facilitates transmission deployment, supports robust transmission planning, and addresses transmission siting and permitting challenges to ensure grid reliability and resilience.

Prior to joining GDO, Jeff was General Counsel and Managing Director at Advanced Energy Economy (now Advanced Energy United), where he co-founded and later led its programs aimed at increasing wholesale electricity market access for advanced energy technologies and transforming wholesale electricity market designs and transmission policies to support the energy transition. Under his leadership, the reach of the organization's wholesale markets, and transmission program expanded rapidly, with staff and funding more than tripling. Jeff also provided legal advice and counsel to the organization's federal and state programs and served as Corporate Secretary.

Earlier in his career, Jeff spent over a decade at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), holding senior legal and policy positions including Director of Policy Development and Legal Advisor to Commissioner John R. Norris. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of landmark FERC rules and orders on transmission planning, transmission cost allocation, and wholesale electricity market design. He also defended FERC's decisions in the United States Courts of Appeals, arguing numerous cases before the D.C. Circuit.

Jeff also has been a lawyer in private practice representing a wide range of private and public energy sector clients in proceedings before FERC, state public utility commissions, and in the courts.

In addition to his work in GDO, Jeff was Chair-Elect of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, and served on the Editorial Board of the Energy Law Journal, and on the faculty of the Clean Energy Leadership Institute. He is a frequent author and speaker on topics in energy policy and law.

BIOGRAPHIES



WILL GLOVER

*Corporate Partner
Gowling WLG*

Will Glover is a Partner in Gowling WLG's London corporate team with a particular focus on advising clients looking to develop or invest in projects in the renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure sectors. Prior to joining Gowling WLG, he trained and qualified as a projects lawyer focusing on the development and financing of energy and infrastructure projects before specializing as a corporate lawyer. This breadth of experience gives him a strong understanding of the types of issues that often arise in projects-related transactions and enables him to provide creative, succinct and pragmatic advice to clients.

His practice typically comprises a mixture of M&A, joint venture and project development work across a range of clean energy technologies including wind, solar, battery storage, biomass, energy-from-waste and interconnectors in both a domestic and an international context.

Will is deeply passionate about the energy transition and enjoys fostering close relationships with clients and immersing himself in their businesses so as to genuinely understand their culture, motivations and methods of operation. In doing so, this enables him to offer the most appropriate commercial and legal advice.

BIOGRAPHIES



TRACY HESTER

Instructional Professor of Law

Co-director of Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Center (EENR)

University of Houston Law Center

Professor Hester teaches environmental law at the University of Houston Law Center, where he co-directs the Law Center's Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Law Center and the University of Houston's Center for Carbon

Management in Energy. He is a recognized expert on the innovative application of environmental laws to emerging technologies and unanticipated risks, including climate engineering, deep decarbonization (particularly in energy production), nanoscale materials and microplastics, and climate liability.

In Fall 2019, Professor Hester taught the first U.S. law school course on Climate Intervention Law, which focused on emerging climate engineering technologies and legal challenges. He also originated an innovative Environmental Practicum that matches students with multiple leading environmental attorneys to work on practical projects and to develop creative legal initiatives, and has created an Environmental Appellate Advocacy Institute to identify and participate in cases affecting core interests of environmental law. Professor Hester was named President of the American College of Environmental Lawyers in 2024 (and previously served as a Regent from 2018 to 2021). He was also elected as a member of the American Law Institute in 2004, and named the Top Environmental Lawyer in Houston in 2011 by Best Lawyers of America. He was elected to the Council of the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER) in 2011 through 2014. Professor Hester is the past chair of SEER's Special Committee on Congressional Relations, its Climate Change and Sustainable Development Committee, and its Environmental Enforcement and Crimes Committee.

Professor Hester serves on the American Bar Association's Climate Change Task Force, and he acted as one of the ABA's delegates to the UN climate conferences in 2021, 2022, and 2023. During the summer of 2014, Professor Hester served as the interim Director of the North America Commission on Environmental Cooperation's Submission on Environmental Matters Unit in Montreal, Canada. The Environmental Law Institute also named him as its Environmental Scholar in Residence for 2015.

Prior to joining the University of Houston Law Center, Professor Hester practiced for 25 years and served as a partner in Bracewell LLP for sixteen years. He led that firm's Houston environmental group.

BIOGRAPHIES



CODY JOHNSON

*Chief Executive Officer
SCS Technologies LLC*

Cody W. Johnson is a Houston area native, entrepreneur, investor, board member, and four-time CEO in the Energy and Industrials space. He has led manufacturing, fabrication, service, and distribution businesses in Malaysia, India, Mexico, Cyprus, and the United States.

Cody is currently CEO of SCS Technologies LLC, a design, fabrication, and services business providing fugitive gas recovery, measurement, custody transfer equipment, and pumping equipment to major and super-major energy companies. Cody is a 2009 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center and a 2024 recipient of Harvard Business School Executive Education's Certificate of Management Excellence.



HUGH MAULE

*Partner
Gowling WLG*

Much of Hugh Maule's career has revolved around the equity capital markets in the UK including both AIM and the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange.

This covers a very broad spectrum of corporate activity: from the listing of equity for the first time on AIM or the Main Market usually combined with a placing of new equity and/or an open offer of new equity to existing shareholders; to successfully raising new capital for existing listed companies through secondary placings, offerings and rights issues; and corporate transactions by listed companies including public takeovers, buying and selling subsidiaries and assets, capital restructurings and capital reductions.

Hugh's work is not restricted to the public company arena. In a long career in which the equity capital markets have ebbed and flowed in activity levels, Hugh has gained experience in joint ventures, private equity and venture capital work. This has taken many forms acting for early stage incubators, venture capital trusts and private equity houses on initial and follow on investments as well as work for start ups, growing family businesses and more developed businesses, taking equity for acquisition and/or working capital purposes.

With over 30 years of practice the number of industry sectors Hugh has worked for is wide and varied - a variety which he enjoys. Hugh would specifically count healthcare, life sciences, real estate, renewables, hospitality, leisure and retail, support services and technology among those for which he has the most experience.

Gowling WLG is now by some margin the leading adviser to AIM companies ranked by the market capitalisation of its clients.

BIOGRAPHIES



DEONNE CUNNINGHAM NAULS

*General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer
Skylar Capital Management LP*

Deonne Cunningham Nauls is the General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for Skylar Capital Management LP. With over 16 years of experience, her practice includes legal and compliance issues related to energy matters, including but not specifically limited to, commercial transactions related to marketing, physical and financial derivatives trading for natural gas and other petroleum products, power, and renewables, regulatory and compliance, litigation, project development and facility operations, real estate, land and corporate governance matters.

Her previous experience includes General Counsel of GlidePath Power Solution, LLC, Associate General Counsel at Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC and Lead Counsel of the Wholesale Legal Contracts team (natural gas, power, and renewables) at Direct Energy. She led the team through the 2021 closing of the \$3.6 billion sale of Direct Energy from Centrica, plc to NRG Energy, a Fortune 500 company. She has also represented other companies and organizations as counsel such as Noble Energy, Repsol, Iberdrola, and the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) in Houston, Texas.

Deonne obtained her Juris Doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston. She currently serves as a Board Member for the Texas Chapter of the Energy Bar Association and on the Advisory Board for Mercaturae Institute.

BIOGRAPHIES



LINDA PRIMROSE

*Senior Vice President & Chief Compliance Officer (Americas)
Corporate Secretary
Mitsui & Co., Ltd.*

Linda D. Primrose is Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer with Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc. After four years leading the legal function in the US and Canada as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Linda now leads the compliance and integrity function throughout the

Americas, while also providing strategic support to the legal department for material litigation and transactions.

Linda is an experienced board and executive advisor, and seasoned lawyer with more than 20 years' experience serving in a general corporate, commercial and compliance role, supporting diverse and multicultural business operations and industries. Linda has spent almost 19 years with Mitsui and is the first American and first woman to hold a C-Suite position with Mitsui Americas, and was also the first to hold the GC position with Mitsui in the U.S.

Before joining Mitsui, Linda was in private practice for five years with Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP's corporate department in New York and she worked as an environmental scientist prior to and during law school.

Linda holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Fordham University, a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University, and a Juris Doctorate degree, cum laude and Order of the Coif, from Fordham University School of Law. She is admitted to practice in New York and Texas. Linda also sits on the Board of Directors of the McGovern Health and Science Museum as well as its Executive Committee and is a cantor at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community.

BIOGRAPHIES



RYAN PURPURA

Partner

Blank Rome LLP

Ryan represents oil and gas companies, private equity and hedge funds, and other financial institutions in mergers and acquisitions, project finance and development, and other transactions related to the energy industry. A recognized practitioner in Texas and Pennsylvania, as well as across the

United States, Ryan also frequently lectures on topics related to oil and gas and has served as an adjunct professor teaching Energy Law at Duquesne University's School of Law.

Ryan's experience includes:

- Joint ventures and other strategic combinations regarding the development of oil and gas assets, primarily in domestic shale areas
- Acquisitions and divestitures of oil and gas assets, midstream and master limited partnership assets, and oilfield service businesses
- Financing transactions, including volumetric production payments, net profits interests and mineral royalty funds

He has served as in-house counsel to two publicly traded natural gas companies (including the first-ever exploration and production master limited partnership), where he advised on a range of commercial and operations issues, including oil and gas marketing arrangements, land acquisition and development, employment matters, and litigation. Ryan also serves as outside general counsel to several exploration and production and midstream companies, advising them on all aspects of their operations.

BIOGRAPHIES



RICHARD L. SCHEEL

*Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and
Chief Risk Officer
ERCOT*

Richard L. Scheel is Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Risk Officer at ERCOT and responsible for the company's financial management, risk, and strategy functions, including accounting and control, financial planning and analysis, treasury, enterprise risk, strategy, and supply chain. He is also responsible for enterprise architecture, project portfolio management, and quality management. Mr. Scheel has more than 20 years of finance experience. He joined ERCOT in 2020 as Controller and assumed his current role in October 2024.

Prior to joining ERCOT, Mr. Scheel served in senior finance leadership positions with the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, the City of Austin, and Dell. His work in finance spans financial services, oil and gas, hi-tech, and government.

Mr. Scheel is a licensed CPA in Texas, earned a BBA from the University of Houston, an MS in Accounting Information Systems from UT Dallas, attended Harvard's Program on Negotiation, and served as a committeeman for the AICPA's GPAC.



GAURAV SEN

*Market Lead
Aurora Energy Research LLC*

Gaurav is the Market Lead for the SPP region at Aurora Energy Research, where he supports Aurora's clients with cutting-edge power market analysis and forecasts, as well as custom scenario analytics, enabling Aurora's clients to utilize data-driven intelligence for their corporate strategy, portfolio management and investment decisions as they navigate the evolving energy market landscape.

Prior to joining Aurora, Gaurav practiced corporate finance law in the Global Transactions group at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP in London, U.K. He previously spent several years as a strategy and operations consultant at Deloitte Consulting in New York and Hong Kong. He holds an MBA from the Wharton School, a JD from Penn Law School, a BS from Duke University, and is licensed to practice law in New York and Florida.

BIOGRAPHIES



JEFF SLOTTERBACK

Co-Founder and Partner

PhiCap Advisors LLC

Jeff is a co-Founder and Partner, providing co-executive leadership and capital advisory services to several energy and energy transition entities. Through PhiCap, Jeff currently serves as Chief Financial Officer for WhiteHawk Energy LLC, Chief Financial Officer for 98six Redevelopment Partners LLC, and co-Chief Financial Officer for SquareOne Energy LLC.

Prior to PhiCap, Jeff served as the Principal Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer for the Atlas companies, publicly traded energy enterprises including Atlas Energy Group and Atlas Resource Partners as well as several of its subsidiaries. Before becoming Chief Financial Officer in 2015, Jeff served as Chief Accounting Officer and other senior accounting leadership positions since joining the team in 2007. At Atlas, Jeff led the companies through all phases of the companies' life cycles, from significant A&D driven growth, to entity-wide monetization mergers, culminating with in-court and out-of-court balance sheet restructurings and liquidations.

Jeff was also Senior Auditor with Deloitte & Touche, LLP following graduation from Muhlenberg College with a degree in Accounting.

BIOGRAPHIES



GINA S. WARREN

Professor of Law

A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies

Co-director of Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Center (EENR)

University of Houston Law Center

Gina S. Warren is the A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies and co-director of the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Center. Her teaching and scholarship focus on the nexus between the environment, property, social justice, and energy. Her scholarship has appeared in top 20 law review journals, books, and peer-reviewed journals. She is an internationally recognized scholar with publications in prominent journals such as the *Boston University Law Review*, the *Maryland Law Review*, the *Missouri Law Review*, the *Nebraska Law Review*, the *Idaho Law Review* (peer reviewed), the *University of Cologne (Germany) Business Law Journal*, and the *Columbia Journal of Environmental Law*. Professor Warren's research has also been cited by the Texas Supreme Court, the Colorado Supreme Court, Massachusetts appellate courts, the Oxford Handbook of Sport and Society, and showcased by the *Washington Post*, among others.

Professor Warren was in private practice for several years prior to entering academia. She worked as a litigator in land use, environment, and utility law at Perkins Coie, LLP. Professor Warren also completed a clerkship for the Honorable Michael Winkelstein of the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Arizona and her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington.

For more information about upcoming events and programs at the University of Houston Law Center:



law.uh.edu/eenrcenter



UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON
LAW CENTER

The University of Houston Law Center is part of a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university and an EEO/AA institution.