Elizabeth H. Barnes Esq.

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Elizabeth (Betsy) Barnes has been Deputy Chief Counsel in the Law Bureau of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission since July 2022. She is primarily responsible for federal energy matters and regulatory review. Prior to her appointment, she served as an Administrative Law Judge in the Harrisburg office of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission from July 2010 – July 2022. From December 1998 – July 2010, she was Assistant Counsel in the Commission’s Law Bureau. Ms. Barnes holds a B.S. in Marketing/Pre-Law from Juniata College and a J.D. from Widener University Delaware Law School.

James H. Cawley Esq.

SkarlatosZonarich LLC

James H. Cawley is a lawyer and consultant specializing in public utility law. Since 2016 he has been Of Counsel to SkarlatosZonarich LLC in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Previously he served as the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (1979-1985; 2005-2015) regulating telecommunications, water, energy, and transportation utility services. While a PaPUC commissioner, he was appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal [Telephone] Service and served as the State Chairman of the Board. He was a partner at law firms Rhoads & Sinon (1996-2005) and LeBoeuf, Lamb, Green & MacRae LLP (1988-1996). For twenty years he was an adjunct professor of federal and state administrative law and appellate advocacy at the Harrisburg campus of Widener University Commonwealth Law School. From 1991 to 1999, he served on the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, and from 1998 to 2003, he served on the board of directors of Pennsylvania-American Water Company and from 2016 to 2020 on the board of directors of The York Water Company. Early in his career, he served as majority counsel to the Pa. Senate Consumer Affairs Committee and then as chief counsel to the Senate Democratic majority caucus. In 1975-76, he was a major drafter of reforms to Pennsylvania’s public utility laws (including drafting the separate law creating the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General with its jurisdiction confined to the PaPUC) and then assisted with the codification of those laws into the present Public Utility Code. In 1983, he co-authored a rate case handbook that was updated in 2018; it is available on the PaPUC's website: [Ratemaking Guide](http://www.puc.pa.gov/General/publications_reports/pdf/Ratemaking_Guide2018.pdf).

Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank was nominated by Governor Wolf on September 20, 2022, and confirmed by the Senate on October 19, 2022. He was appointed as Chairman on August 30, 2023, by Governor Josh Shapiro. His term expires on April 1, 2025. Prior to joining the PaPUC, the Chairman was a principal in the government relations practice at Buchannan Ingersoll & Rooney.  He also spent 24 years in state government, primarily in the state Senate, serving in several roles with Senate leadership, including Chief of Staff for two members, Special Assistant for Policy to the Democratic Leader, and Democratic Executive Director of the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.  As Committee Director, the Chairman developed policy initiatives impacting the utility sector, including the creation of the Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC), authorization of Transportation Network Companies, and modernizing the Public Utility Code relative to energy, water, wastewater and telecommunications. Chairman DeFrank resides in Harrisburg with his family.

Kristen Edwards, Esq.

South Dakota Public Utility Commission

Daniel Eitzman

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Daniel Eitzman is an Energy Program Specialist in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Energy Programs Office.

Brian Fitzpatrick

PJM Interconnection

Brian Fitzpatrick is the Principal Fuel Supply Strategist for PJM Interconnection

Robert Gramola

PA Public Utility Commission

Robert C. (Bob) Gramola is the longtime Director of Administration and Finance for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Bob is a graduate of Empire State College (SUNY), Rochester, NY with a degree in Business Management. His professional career spans over 40 years in the business and regulatory community overseeing organizations’ administrative duties including Human Resources, Information Technologies, and Budget / Fiscal Operations. He has also served as the chairman of NARUC’s Information Services Subcommittee for the past seven years and works with the various commissions Information Technology leaders on the ever-changing IT landscape facing public utility commissions and best practices for these technologies.

The Honorable Scott Hempling

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Scott Hempling taught regulatory law to a generation of United States practitioners. He has advised and testified before numerous state utility commissions, and appeared frequently before U.S. congressional and state legislative committees. He has addressed audiences throughout the United States and in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Central America, England, Germany, India, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru and Vanuatu. His legal textbook, Regulating Public Utility Performance: The Law of Market Structure, Pricing and Jurisdiction (American Bar Association 2d ed. 2021), has been described as “a joy … for the veteran, essential reading for the newcomer.” His book of essays, Preside or Lead? The Attributes and Actions of Effective Regulators, has been described as “matchless” and “timeless.” His book Regulating Mergers and Acquisitions of U.S. Electric Utilities: Industry Consolidation and Corporate Complication (Edward Elgar Publishing 2020), has been described as “powerful and persuasive . . . a terrific book.” An adjunct professor at Georgetown Law, Hempling is a former Executive Director of the U.S. National Regulatory Research Institute, and currently an Administrative Law Judge at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He received a B.A. cum laude from Yale University in (1) Economics and Political Science and (2) Music, and a J.D. magna cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center.

Ricardo Hicks, Esq.

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC

Renardo (Rick) Hicks is an attorney at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC. From 2019 – 2023, he was Chief Counsel at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Rick is a former Member of Stevens & Lee, where he served as the Chair of the Energy, Regulatory and Public Utilities Group and as a member of the Corporate Transactions and Financial Markets Practice Group. Rick is the founder of the law firm of R. L. Hicks & Associates, where he provided legal and onsulting services to governmental entities, public utilities, corporations, nonprofits, educational institutions, and cultural and religious organizations. He has substantial experience in public and private management, budget development and administration, legal counsel and instruction, client representation, litigation, and enforcement of state and federal laws. Rick also previously served as Regional Vice President and Regulatory Counsel for XO Communications, Inc. and as Executive Deputy Attorney General and Director of the Public Protection Division within the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. He has served as a member of the Capital Area Regional Economic Development Commission, providing low interest loans to new and expanding businesses and as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s Consumer Advisory Council. Rick has a BA in Government from Hamilton College; a JD degree from Northeastern University; an LLM from Temple University; and honorary Doctorate degrees from Allen University, Central Pennsylvania College, Morris Brown College and Turner Theological Seminary.

Michael Holko  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Michael C. Holko was appointed as the first Director of the Office for Cybersecurity Compliance and Oversight (OCCO) by Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille in September 2018.  OCCO is the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s office responsible for working with the regulated utilities to ensure they have adequate measures in place to help prevent and/or mitigate damage from cyberattacks on their critical infrastructure.  As the Director of OCCO, Mr. Holko is responsible for advising the Chairman, Commissioners, and Executive Director on policy and procedural issues; improvements involving cybersecurity oversight functions of regulated utilities; draft proposed cyber-related regulations; and oversee the preparation of orders, rulemakings, policy statements, Secretarial Letters and memoranda related to cybersecurity policies and procedures of those regulated utilities. Mr. Holko has 27 years’ experience in cybersecurity.  He began his career with the Commonwealth Office of Administration holding a variety of positions in IT disaster recovery planning, continuity of government, business analysis, project management, security administration, incident response planning, vulnerability management, and risk management.  During his tenure with the Commonwealth, Mr. Holko worked for the Office of the Budget, the Pennsylvania Justice Network, and the Office for Information Technology, and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.  Mr. Holko received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Slippery Rock University.

James Kennedy

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

James Kennedy is a Fixed Utility Valuation Engineer for the PA PUC, working in the Bureau of Technical Utility Services Water/Wastewater Section. James holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware and a Master of Science Degree from Penn State, also in Chemical Engineering. He recently passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam and was awarded an Engineer in Training Certificate by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. James has published research articles in peer-reviewed journals related to chemistry and chemical engineering.

Maura McClelland, Esq.

Public Utility Commission of Ohio

Maura McClelland is a Staff Attorney at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in the Office of the Federal Energy Advocate. In addition to working on federal and regional energy issues, Maura is Principal Investigator for the PUCO's energy grant programs. Maura received her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law and her undergraduate degree in philosophy from Colgate University in New York. She has worked in state government in Ohio for over 15 years.

Christopher Perkins, Esq.

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC

John F. Povilaitis, Esq.

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Mr. Povilaitis is a Shareholder in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania office of Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C., where he focuses on administrative law matters before various state and federal courts and agencies in the areas of energy, water, transportation and telecommunications, as well as agreements for transactions involving energy production and services. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Povilaitis served as chief counsel of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and successively served as assistant counsel, deputy chief counsel, and first deputy chief counsel, before assuming the position of chief counsel which he held for eight years. Mr. Povilaitis is a past chairperson of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Public Utility Law Section and past editor of the Section’s newsletter. Since 1990, he has been a course planner and speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s biannual Public Utility Law Conference, and is also a planner for the biannual PA PUC Bench Bar Conference. Mr. Povilaitis is a graduate of LaSalle University and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, several United States Federal District Courts, in addition to the several Courts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Povilaitis is a member of the American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Dauphin County Bar Association and the Energy Bar Association.

James Bradford Ramsay, Esq.

National Association of Regulatory Commissioners

James (Brad) Ramsay is General Counsel to the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners and is responsible for all association-related legal issues and for managing the Policy Department in all policy, regulatory, and legislative matters where NARUC is active. He directly supports the NARUC Executive Committee and the NARUC Board of Directors. He also directly supports the Telecommunications Committee, the Consumer Affairs Committee, the Water Committee, the Committee on Critical Infrastructure, and sometimes the Electric, Gas, and ERE committees. He is a member of the Senior Management Team and has worked for NARUC since 1990.

Dylan Reed, Senior Advisor for External Affairs,

U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office

Dylan Reed is a Senior Advisor for External Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Grid Deployment Office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Brian Regli, Ph.D.

Critical Investments, Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania

Brian Regli is the Executive Director of Critical Investments at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

David E. Screven Esq.

PA Public Utility Commission

Mr. Screven presently serves as Chief Counsel in the Law Bureau of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. As the Commission’s senior legal official, David counsels the Commission in all appellate and original jurisdiction matters involving gas, electric, telephone, transportation, and water/wastewater utilities before state courts and federal courts and agencies. As Chief Counsel, he manages the Commission’s Law Bureau, with additional responsibility for drafting policies, procedures, and regulations, developing Commission responses to Right-to-Know and Confidential Security Information requests, and supervision of contracted legal counsel in a variety of matters. He joined the PUC Law Bureau in 1998 after graduating from Messiah College with a BA. in political science and a J.D. from Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg.

Andrew Tubbs, Esq.

NiSource

Andrew Tubbs is Director of Regulatory Strategy at NiSource.

Patricia T. Wiedt Esq.

PA Public Utility Commission

Patricia Wiedt is a Deputy Chief Counsel in the Law Bureau of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Her areas of responsibility primarily include water/wastewater and bankruptcy issues.

Deborah A. Winokur Esq.  
Cozen O'Connor (Phila), Philadelphia

Ms. Winokur is Professional Responsibility Counsel at Cozen O’Connor.  She advises clients on risk management, ethics, and professional responsibility issues arising within their law firms and practices. Deborah also works with stakeholders within the firm to advise on ethical aspects of pending matters and to assure adherence to ethical standards and compliance with firm policies. In addition, she advises firm management on lateral recruitment and integration. Deborah handles pro bono representations, including representing clients through the Support Center for Child Advocates, Defender Association of Philadelphia, Campaign for Working Families Tax Clinic, Volunteers for the Indigent Program and Homeless Advocacy Project. She is a lecturer in law and teaches a course in Professional Responsibility and Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. Deborah earned her bachelor’s degree, cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania and her law degree from Columbia University School of Law. She is Co-chair of the Professional Responsibility Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association and serves on the Philadelphia Bar Association Professional Guidance Committee. She also serves on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Pennsylvania Bar Association Professional Liability Committee, and the Pennsylvania Bar Association Civility in the Professional Committee.

Rebecca Waldemar

Widener University Commonwealth Law School

Rebecca Waldemar is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Law at Widener University Commonwealth Law School, Harrisburg.