



Institute for  
**Policy Integrity**  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

## **SPEAKER BIOS**

### **A New Era of Climate and Energy Policy – September 20, 2022**

#### **Introduction**

##### **Jack Lienke**

##### **Interim Co-Executive Director, Institute for Policy Integrity**

Jack Lienke's work focuses on federal environmental and administrative law. He has participated in dozens of regulatory proceedings before a wide range of federal agencies and filed amicus briefs supporting environmental, health, and consumer protections before numerous federal courts. Jack also serves as an adjunct professor at both NYU Law, where he co-teaches the Regulatory Policy Clinic, and Brooklyn Law School, where he teaches Environmental Law. With Richard Revesz, Jack wrote the book *Struggling for Air: Power Plants and the "War on Coal"*.

#### **Implementing the Inflation Reduction Act**

##### **Jeremiah Baumann**

##### **Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Energy Office of the Under Secretary for Infrastructure**

Jeremiah Baumann is the Chief of Staff at the Office of the Under Secretary for Infrastructure. He was previously the DOE Deputy Chief of Staff. Prior to that, he was Director of Federal Policy at Energy Innovation, where he worked to build an equitable clean energy economy. He previously led efforts focused on state clean energy policies at Bloomberg Philanthropies and served as Legislative Director for Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), where he supported the Senator in the creation of the Rural Energy Savings Program and worked with Oregon and California tribes, farmers, and ranchers on water and energy management in the Klamath River Basin.

##### **Michael Gergen**

##### **Of Counsel, Latham & Watkins LLP and Adjunct Professor of Law, NYU School of Law**

Michael Gergen retired from the partnership of Latham and Watkins in 2020. He has extensive experience developing practical applications of economic theory, corporate finance, and regulatory law to assist clients in the energy industry and other network industries to compete in an environment of market-based, open-access competition. He is an adjunct professor of law and a member of the Board of Advisors for the Institute for Policy Integrity at the New York University School of Law.

##### **Emily Grubert**

##### **Associate Professor of Sustainable Energy Policy, University of Notre Dame**

Dr. Emily Grubert is a civil engineer and environmental sociologist who studies how we can make better decisions about large infrastructure systems, particularly related to justice-centering decarbonization of the U.S. energy system. Prior to joining the Notre Dame faculty, Grubert was an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering and, by courtesy, public policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology (2019-2022) and the deputy assistant secretary for carbon management at the US Department of Energy (2021-2022). She holds a PhD in environment and resources from Stanford.

**Michael Kaercher****Senior Attorney Advisor, Tax Law Center at NYU Law**

Mike Kaercher has over a decade of experience on a broad range of complex federal tax issues. Prior to joining the Tax Law Center, Kaercher spent two years on detail to the House Ways and Means majority tax staff. While there, he designed and advanced tax policy in various substantive areas, including COVID relief provisions, green energy tax policy, and excise taxes. For seven years, he was an employee of the Office of Associate Chief Counsel (International) at the IRS, where he advised the IRS on interpretation, administration, and enforcement of international tax regimes, including the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), the Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI) regime, and the Subpart F regime. In that role, he also drafted regulations and other guidance related to these regimes. Prior to joining the government, Kaercher was an associate at Ivins, Phillips & Barker, and at WilmerHale. Kaercher holds a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA from Colgate University.

**Burçin Ünel (Moderator)****Interim Co-Executive Director, Institute for Policy Integrity**

Dr. Burçin Ünel is an expert in utility regulation, and environmental and energy policy. She leads Policy Integrity's stakeholder involvement both at the federal and state level in front of regulatory agencies such as public utility commissions and FERC. Her policy work in New York and California led to state utility commissions adopting more robust frameworks for valuing emissions, helping achieve the respective states' goals of increasing clean energy and distributed energy resource deployment. Recently, Dr. Ünel served as a Senior Fellow in the Department of Energy's Office of Policy, where she worked on domestic energy and climate policy issues, focusing on federal clean energy legislation, clean energy deployment, and infrastructure planning.

**Environmental Justice in the Biden Administration****Nicky Sheats****Director, Kean University Center for the Urban Environment**

Dr. Nicky Sheats directs the Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University, which provides support for the environmental justice community on both the state and national level. Among the many issues Dr. Sheats is working on are particulate matter air pollution, climate change, cumulative impacts, developing legal strategies and increasing the capacity of the environmental justice community to address these and other issues. Sheats was a founding member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA), the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum, the Environmental Justice and Science Initiative, the Building Equity and Alignment Initiative, the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform, the Coalition for Healthy Ports, and an informal environmental justice attorneys group.

**Peggy Shepard****Executive Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice**

Peggy Shepard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and has a long history of organizing and engaging Northern Manhattan residents in community-based planning and campaigns to address environmental protection and environmental health policy locally and nationally. She has been named co-chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council as well as chair of the New York City Environmental Justice Advisory Board, and was the first female chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Black Environmental Justice Network and the Board of Advisors of the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health.

**Jalonne White-Newsome****Senior Director for Environmental Justice, White House Council on Environmental Quality**

Dr. White-Newsome has tackled environmental challenges from a wide range of positions and perspectives, including in the grassroots environmental justice movement, philanthropy, state government, private industry, and academia. Before joining CEQ, Dr. White-Newsome founded and led Empowering a Green Environment and Economy, LLC, a strategic consulting firm. Previously, she was a Senior Program Officer at the Kresge Foundation and created the Climate Resilience and Equitable Water Systems Initiative. She also served as the first Director of Federal Policy for WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and provided leadership for the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change, a national coalition of environmental justice leaders. Dr. White-Newsome's early environmental justice advocacy started in her work as a chemical engineer in private industry.

**Al Huang (Moderator)****Environmental Justice Director, Institute for Policy Integrity**

Al Huang's legal work focuses on providing legal and technical assistance, when invited, to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color facing disproportionate burdens, such as toxic pollution. The foundation of his work is deeply rooted in the Principles of Environmental Justice and Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, where social change comes from the ground up. Prior to coming to IPI, Al directed the environmental justice work and served as a Senior Attorney at Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for 17 years. He has taught environmental justice law and practice as an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School and NYU Law School. He currently serves on the Environmental Justice committee of the American Bar Association and is also an appointed member of the New York City Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

**Keynote****Willie Phillips****Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

Commissioner Willie L. Phillips was nominated to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by President Biden, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 16, 2021. He most recently served as the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, named to that role in 2018. He served on the Commission since 2014. He is an experienced regulatory attorney combining nearly 20 years of legal expertise in public and private practice. He has an extensive background in public utility regulation, bulk power system reliability, and corporate governance. Prior to being appointed to the DCPSC, Mr. Phillips served as Assistant General Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). Before joining NERC, he also worked for two law firms, where he advised clients on energy regulatory compliance and policy matters. Mr. Phillips has served on the boards of several organizations, including the board of directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Organization of PJM States. He also has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and he has held leadership roles on several advisory councils, including the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council. Mr. Phillips has a Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Montevallo. He lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and two children.

**Sarah Ladin (Moderator)****Senior Attorney, Institute for Policy Integrity**

Sarah Ladin's research and advocacy focus on economically efficient and environmentally sustainable federal energy policy, particularly with regard to FERC-jurisdictional power markets and natural gas infrastructure. Prior to joining Policy Integrity, Sarah was a legal fellow at Environmental Defense Fund where her work focused on wholesale power markets and climate-related financial risk. She also

clerked for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Sarah received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and her B.A. from the Ohio State University.

## **Courts, Regulation, and the Future of Climate Policy**

### **Kirti Datla**

#### **Director of Strategic Legal Advocacy, Earthjustice**

As Director of Strategic Legal Advocacy, Kirti leads Earthjustice's efforts to anticipate and shape trends in judicial doctrine outside the environmental arena. This includes legal doctrines affecting justiciability, jurisdiction, the scope of federal power, and judicial review of agency actions.

Immediately prior to joining Earthjustice, Kirti worked in the Supreme Court and Appellate practice group at Hogan Lovells US LLP. There, she briefed and argued appeals before federal circuit courts and substantive motions before federal district courts. She also briefed cases before the Supreme Court of the United States. Earlier in her career, Kirti served as an attorney-adviser in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, where her work focused on federal environmental and land statutes.

### **Nat Keohane**

#### **President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions**

Dr. Nat Keohane leads the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), a voice for practical policy and action to address the world's energy and climate challenges. Dr. Keohane is an economist with more than 20 years of energy and environmental policy experience in academia, government, and the non-profit sector, most recently as Senior Vice President for Climate with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), where he led all of EDF's climate work in the United States and globally. In 2011-2012, Keohane served in the White House as Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Environment in the National Economic Council and Domestic Policy Council, helping to shape administration policy on energy and environmental issues. He previously directed economic policy and analysis at EDF. From 2001-2008, Dr. Keohane was an Assistant and then Associate Professor of Economics at the Yale School of Management. He received a Ph.D. from Harvard University and a B.A. from Yale College.

### **Skye Perryman**

#### **President, Democracy Forward**

Skye Perryman leads Democracy Forward Foundation, a national legal organization dedicated to using the law and regulatory process to advance progress for people and communities in the United States. A litigator and strategist, Perryman previously served as General Counsel of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the nation's leading association of physicians dedicated to the health of women, and in litigation roles at WilmerHale and Covington & Burling. Prior to her legal education, Ms. Perryman was engaged in early efforts to build coalitions between labor unions and environmental organizations as part of the Apollo Alliance for Energy Independence. Perryman's work has been recognized for its positive impact on people and communities and has been covered in outlets such as The New York Times, NPR, NBC News, The Washington Post, The Houston Chronicle, and Teen Vogue.

### **Michael Livermore (Moderator)**

#### **Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law**

Michael Livermore directs the Program in Law, Communities, and the Environment (PLACE) at the University of Virginia School of Law. He teaches courses on environmental law, regulation, and legal technology. His research focuses on environmental law, cost-benefit analysis, and the application of data science techniques to legal texts. He is the co-author of *Reviving Rationality: Saving Cost-Benefit Analysis for the Sake of the Environment and Our Health* and *Retaking Rationality: How Cost-Benefit Analysis Can Better Protect the Environment and Our Health* and co-editor of *The Globalization of Cost-Benefit Analysis in Environmental Policy*.