

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | LAW CENTER
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center

4TH ANNUAL
**North American Environment, Energy
and Natural Resources Conference**

August 18, 2020

— *Special Webinar Edition* —

**The New Energy Landscape:
COVID-19, Climate Change and Diversification**

- › The future as seen by energy company general counsel
- › Discussion of the first survey on energy workers return to work
- › The latest from the leaders in negative emissions technology

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North American Energy and Environmental Policy in Transition Agenda

In a few short weeks between the beginning of February and the middle of March 2020, the world saw an unprecedented drop in demand for energy, particularly for transportation fuels. Though the immediacy and scale of the drop are invariably related to the COVID-19 pandemic, other factors, such as increasing Russian and Saudi production as well as continued climate concerns have also had an effect. This same period saw some of the world's largest energy companies propose future carbon neutrality targets, continue diversification of their business model from fossil fuels, and increase their investment in negative emissions technology startups. Despite the pandemic, renewable buildout continues. Energy businesses also face a reckoning over environment, social, and governance policies and their commitments to anti-racism.

Join University of Houston energy and climate law experts, energy general counsel, negative carbon technology business entrepreneurs and Blank Rome attorneys as we take stock and make sense of the new post-COVID world of energy in our Special 2020 North American Conference Webinar Edition.

AGENDA

8:45 am **Welcome to our Changed World**

Victor Flatt, Dwight Olds Chair in Law and the Faculty Co-Director of the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Center
Susan Bickley, Blank Rome, Houston Managing Partner

9:00 am **Technological Innovation and Energy**

Ramanan Krishnamoorti, moderator and speaker: UH Energy

Energy Investment in Direct Air Capture and Other technologies

Steve Oldham, CEO, Carbon Engineering

Innovations in low carbon emissions and IP innovation,

Joshua Sarnoff, DePaul University, IP issues and negative emissions technology
Sean McDermott, Blank Rome

10:30 am ***Discussions with Dean Leonard Baynes: Carbon Neutrality, COVID-19, The Economy, Black Lives Matter and the 2020 Election.***

Corporate General Counsel Panel:

Kay McCall, Noble Environmental Power
Ken Neikirk, Helix Energy
Kelly B. Rose, ConocoPhillips
Tony Trevino, Lewis Energy
William Turcotte, Noble Corporation

11:30 am **Roundtable: The Business and Policy Future for North American Energy-Lessons from COVID**

Victor Flatt, EENR Center Faculty Co-Director – Moderator
Praveen Kumar, UH Bauer GEMI
Alfonso Lopez de la Osa Escribano, UHLC US-Mexican Law Center
Dr. Christiane Spitzmueller, UH Center for Applied Psychological Research (creator of The Energy Workforce Return to Work Survey)
Margaret Hill, Blank Rome

12:30 pm **Wrap Up and Questions**

Gina Warren, UH EENR Center Faculty Co-Director
Margaret Hill, Blank Rome

12:45 pm **END**

SPEAKERS



DEAN LEONARD M. BAYNES

As the ninth dean of the University of Houston Law Center, Leonard M. Baynes brings a national reputation as a communications law scholar with specializations in business, media, and diversity issues. During his tenure, Dean Baynes has initiated award-winning programs to the UHLC including the Pre-Law Pipeline and the Briefcase radio series airing on KUHF in Houston. Dean Baynes has previously served as the inaugural director of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John's University School of Law. He earned his JD-MBA from Columbia Law School and BS from New York University.



VICTOR FLATT

Professor Victor B. Flatt returned to the University of Houston in 2017 as the Dwight Olds Chair in Law and the Faculty Director of the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (EENR) Center. He also holds an appointment as a Distinguished Scholar of Carbon Markets at the University of Houston's Global Energy Management Institute. He was previously the inaugural O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Law at UHLC from 2002–2009. Professor Flatt is a recognized expert on environmental law, climate law, and energy law. His research focuses on environmental legislation and enforcement, with particular expertise in the Clean Air Act and NEPA. He is co-author of a popular environmental law casebook, and has authored more than 40 law review articles.



RAMANAN KRISHNAMOORTI

Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti is the chief energy officer at the University of Houston. Prior to his current position, Krishnamoorti served as interim vice president for research and technology transfer for UH and the UH System. During his tenure at the university, he has served as chair of the UH Cullen College of Engineering's chemical and biomolecular engineering department, associate dean of research for engineering, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering with affiliated appointments as professor of petroleum engineering and professor of chemistry.



PRAVEEN KUMAR

Praveen Kumar is the Cullen Distinguished University Chair, Professor of Finance, and the Faculty Director of the Gutierrez Energy Management Institute in the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. Praveen received his Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University and his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Princeton University. His research interests include financial and energy markets, capital investment and risk management, corporate finance and governance, and innovation and entrepreneurship. His research has been very widely published in the top journals in finance, economics, management, and accounting. He has received numerous awards for his research at some of the leading conferences in finance. His research has also been cited in major business news publications.



ALFONSO LOPEZ de la OSA ESCRIBANO

Alfonso López de la Osa Escribano is Director of the Center of U.S. and Mexican Law at the University of Houston Law Center, and Adjunct Faculty on "Comparative Health Law" of the Health Law and Policy Institute in this same university. He obtained his PhD. in Public Health Law at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, where he studied a degree (DEA Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies) on Droit public comparé des Etats Européens (1997). He earned his Law Degree (1995) and Master's degree in European Union Law (1996) at the University Complutense of Madrid in Spain. He is a practicing lawyer at the Madrid Bar, in Spain since 1999 with a very successful track record both in litigation and settlement, with a pragmatically and imaginative way of suggesting applying the law.



KAY MCCALL

C. Kay McCall is a senior energy industry executive with more than a decade of experience in the renewable energy industry. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Alliance – Houston, a new non-profit organization connecting and supporting businesses and professionals in the renewable energy industry in the Houston area. Ms. McCall recently served as President and CEO of Noble Environmental Power, which developed, owned and operated wind energy projects in Texas and the state of New York. Ms. McCall has also worked extensively in the conventional power, oil and gas services, engineering and construction, and major equipment manufacturing industries. She began her career as a trial lawyer in Houston. Ms. McCall is a proud graduate of the University of Houston Law Center. She also obtained a BA in Political Science from UH.



KEN NEIKIRK

Ken Neikirk is the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Helix Energy Solutions Group, a Houston-based international offshore energy services company that provides specialty services to the offshore energy industry, with a focus on well intervention and robotics operations. Mr. Neikirk oversees Helix's legal, human resources, and contracts and insurance functions. Mr. Neikirk has over 19 years of experience practicing law in the corporate and energy sectors, and prior to joining Helix in 2007 Mr. Neikirk was in private practice in New York and Houston. Mr. Neikirk holds a BA from Duke University and a JD from the University of Houston Law Center.



STEVEN OLDHAM

Steve Oldham serves as CE's CEO. Steve brings more than 20 years of executive experience to CE's team, stemming from previous roles in technology, robotics, and aerospace sectors. Steve served as Senior Vice President, Strategic Business Development for MDA, a leading Canadian technology firm. At MDA, Steve held a variety of senior executive positions across Canada and the US, covering General Management, Business Development, and Strategy. He has secured financing from Government and commercial sources for a variety of complex technologies, including several large satellite programs. Steve holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Birmingham in England.



KELLY ROSE

Kelly Rose is senior vice president, Legal, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for ConocoPhillips. Kelly and her team provide oversight on legal matters, corporate governance and compliance issues; counsel the company on reducing risk; serve as advocates for the company and advise on corporate strategy and business plans. She has more than 25 years of experience working in corporate governance, capital markets and mergers and acquisitions.



JOSHUA SARNOFF

A Professor of Law at DePaul University College of Law, a 2018 DePaul University Spirit of Inquiry Awardee, and a former Director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology (CIPLIT®). In 2019, he testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Intellectual Property Subcommittee on patent eligibility issues, and was an expert witness in an international patent law arbitration. From 2014 to 2015, Professor Sarnoff was a Thomas A. Edison Distinguished Scholar at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He teaches patent law, advanced patent law, administrative law, law and climate change, and other courses. He was previously a professor at the Washington College of Law, American University, in the Glushko-Samuels Intellectual Property Law Clinic, and at the University of Arizona College of Law, and was a visitor at the University of Baltimore School of Law in the Fall of 2017.



CHRISTIANE SPITZMUELLER

Christiane Spitzmueller, Ph.D., is Professor of Industrial Organizational Psychology at the University of Houston (UH), where she conducts research and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in technical training and occupational health psychology. Through her research, she has examined mentoring solutions and workforce nationalization programs across national contexts. She has served as a visiting faculty member at Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany) and at Lagos Business School (Nigeria) and is a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship.



TONY TREVINO

In the spring of 1990 Tony Trevino left his law practice in Houston to become an oil and gas lawyer in South Texas. One of his first clients was Rod Lewis. For over 21 years Tony served as outside counsel for Lewis Energy Group, with a primary focus on acquisitions and transactions. In the fall of 2011 Tony joined the company as General Counsel. Tony said, "To witness the growth and accomplishments of our company has been a real pleasure." Tony received his B.A., from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983 and his J.D. from the University of Houston in 1986.



WILLIAM TURCOTTE

William E. Turcotte was named Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Noble Corporation in December, 2008. He was named Corporate Secretary in January 2018. Prior to joining Noble, Mr. Turcotte served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Cornell Companies, Inc. since 2007. Before joining Cornell, Mr. Turcotte was most recently Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Transocean, Inc., where he worked from 2000 to 2007. Between 1992 and 2000, he served in various legal positions with Schlumberger Limited in Houston, Caracas and Paris, and prior to 1992, he worked as a legal associate in law firms in Mexico City and Houston.



GINA WARREN

Professor Gina S. Warren joined the Law Center in 2016, teaching Property, Energy Law & Policy, Renewable Energy Law, International Energy Law, and Oil & Gas. She is the new faculty Co-Director of the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (EENR) center. Previously she taught Oil & Gas, Energy Law, Climate Change & Energy, Natural Resources Law, and Civil Procedure at the Texas A&M University School of Law (2011-2016) as well as Energy Law and Civil Procedure at Duquesne University School of Law (2010-2011). She has also taught internationally at the University of Cologne in Cologne, Germany and in coordination with the University of Guanajuato in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. She is the past chair of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Natural Resources and Energy Law and has served for the last several years on the section's sub-committees.



SUSAN BICKLEY

Susan L. Bickley is the Chair of Blank Rome's Houston office. She has over 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.



MARGARET ANN HILL

Margaret Hill has been practicing environmental law for more than 30 years. She is a member of Blank Rome's Energy and Environmental Practice Group, which in 2017 was recognized as "Law Firm of the Year" by the Northeast Oil & Gas Awards and also as a "Pennsylvania Powerhouse" by Law360 with respect to representation of the energy industry.



SEAN MCDERMOTT

Sean McDermott is a partner in the Houston office of Blank Rome. He concentrates his practice on procuring and protecting intellectual property rights, with a primary focus on patent prosecution. Throughout his 18 years of experience, Sean has represented numerous clients in diverse technological fields with a focus in the energy sector.

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