



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

8th Annual North American Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Conference



Energy in Transition: Obstacles and Opportunities for Carbon Capture, Infrastructure Repurposing, and a Resilient Electricity Grid

Thursday, April 18, 2024

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Central | Conference

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Central | Reception

University of Houston Law Center

John M. O'Quinn Law Building

Foundation Room

4170 Martin Luther King Blvd. Houston, Texas 77204

Kindly Sponsored by Blank Rome LLP, UHLC Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center, UH Energy, Ms. Susan Bickley, and UHLC Professor Gina S. Warren



AGENDA

12:30 P.M.

Registration Open

1:00 – 1:10 P.M.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Susan Bickley

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Gina S. Warren

A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies and Co-Director, EENR

1:10 – 2:30 P.M.

Fireside Chat with Catarina Gonzales *(Introduction by Susan Bickley)*

Catarina Gonzales

Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Tracy Hester (Discussant)

Instructional Associate Professor of Law, Co-Director, EENR

2:30 – 2:45 P.M.

Break (Light Refreshments)

2:45 – 3:45 P.M.

The Business of Energy: A Discussion on the Inflation Reduction Act, Carbon Capture, and the Energy Transition

Keith Letourneau (Moderator)

Blank Rome LLP

Chinonso Anozie (Panelist)

Assistant Professor of Law, Willamette University College of Law

Andrew Cross (Panelist)

Of Counsel, Blank Rome LLP

David Mora (Panelist)

Vice President, Carbon Solutions, NextDecade

Michael Sanders (Panelist)

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

3:45 – 5:00 P.M.

Discussions with Dean Leonard M. Baynes: Corporate General Counsel/ Senior Executive Panel

Dean Leonard M. Baynes
(Moderator)

University of Houston Law Center

Gregory Brown (Panelist)

General Counsel, Evolution Well Services, LLC

Carrie Clark (Panelist)

Senior Vice President, Chief Commercial Officer, Black Stone Minerals LP

Deonne Cunningham Nauls
(Panelist)

General Counsel, Skylar Capital Management LP

Cody Johnson (Panelist)

Chief Executive Officer, SCS Technologies LLC

Linda Primrose (Panelist)

General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

5:00 – 5:10 P.M.

EENR Student Scholarship Announcement *(Introduction by Gina S. Warren)*

Presentation by Student Winner Frank Chambers: The Nuclear Option: Securing Environmental Justice Benefits Through the Movement to Replace Coal Power Plants

5:10 – 7:00 P.M.

Networking Reception

James and Carol Roach Rooftop Lounge

Law Rm. 309 with overflow in 3rd Floor Lobby Area

BIOGRAPHIES

CHINONSO ANOZIE

Assistant Professor of Law, Willamette University College of Law

Professor Anozie teaches property law and various energy and environmental law classes, including a global environmental justice class that incorporates environmental harms and just energy transition in the least developed economies. Before joining Willamette University College of Law, Professor Anozie was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University.

Prior to teaching, he was an associate in a mid-size law firm's corporate division in Nigeria where he worked on energy and environmental issues. As a senior associate, he advised domestic and foreign government agencies on energy trade and environmental law issues.

Professor Anozie's scholarship lies at the intersection of energy and environmental laws and regulations. Specifically, he addresses the impact of energy laws, regulations, and policies on energy development in various jurisdictions – focusing on disadvantaged communities– and the extraterritorial nature of U.S. energy and environmental policies and how countries react to such policies. Anozie's scholarship also addresses energy and environmental justice issues, focusing on environmental harm remediation in poor migrant, Native American, and low-income communities.

LEONARD M. BAYNES

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair, Professor of Law

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 3.72. 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.

SUSAN BICKLEY '84

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Susan Bickley is the co-chair of Blank Rome's Houston office, serves on the firm's distribution committee and was a member of the firm's executive committee, governance committee, and strategic planning committee. She was the previous chair of the Blank Rome Women's Forum, an affinity group for women attorneys.

In Ms. Bickley's varied civil trial practice, she frequently works in the energy industry and represents public corporations, small companies, and start-ups, in a wide array of litigation involving employment issues, business and commercial issues, trade secrets, and restrictive covenants. In a separate area, she also regularly represents professional athletes and sports executives in connection with high-profile disputes and agreements, and defends local governments and public officials.

She has served in several significant alumni leadership roles at the University of Houston Law Center including being the first woman to serve as President of the UH Law Foundation. Ms. Bickley also previously served as an adjunct professor, teaching trial advocacy at the University of Houston Law Center.

Active in the legal community, Ms. Bickley has served as President of the Houston Bar Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the Houston Bar Association. She previously served on the State Bar Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Committee and the State Bar Annual Meeting Committee. She received the HBA President's Award in 2010 and 2011.

In 2021, the Houston Bar Association named Ms. Bickley as the recipient of the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Award, named after trailblazing UH Law alumna who was the first woman appointed to serve on the Texas Supreme Court during its regular session. The award recognizes a woman lawyer or judge with a record of exceptional achievement and leadership in the law. Ms. Bickley also currently serves as Chair of the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science's board of directors.

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.

FRANK CHAMBERS

University of Houston Law Center, Class of 2024

Frank Chambers entered law school following a fifteen-year career in music education. His time as a public-school band director and private music instructor, as well as a self-taught fiction writer, equipped him with tools to succeed in the litigation sphere. Frank serves as a Senior Articles Editor for the Houston Law Review and was named Outstanding Editor for Board 61. His Note on Fourth Amendment concerns in digital searches was named Best Paper written for HLR and can be found in issue 1 of volume 61. Frank also serves as Executive Chair of the UHLC Moot Court team. He earned the Best Brief award at two competitions, including the prestigious 2024 ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition National Finals. He is a member of the Order of the Barristers and the Order of the Scribes.

After graduation, Frank will serve as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Jeff Brown, District Court Judge for the Galveston Division in the Southern District of Texas. Following his clerkship, Frank will return to Baker Botts as a litigation associate in the Houston office. Born in Hawaii and raised in San Antonio, Frank now makes his home in Houston and is a happy resident of the Heights. He lives with his wife Samantha, their dog Mele, and cat Disco.

CARRIE CLARK '07

Senior Vice President, Chief Commercial Officer, Black Stone Materials LP

Carrie Clark has 25 years of experience in the energy industry serving in various roles of increasing responsibility, including non-profit and public service experience, publicly-traded companies, and privately held companies. Ms. Clark currently serves on the executive team of Black Stone Minerals as Senior Vice President, Chief Commercial Officer, where she has been since 2021.

Prior to joining BSM, she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of University Lands, where she built legal, land management, and commercial teams and developed legal and land management strategies and commercial agreements which generated billions of dollars to support higher education in the State of Texas. Ms. Clark began her career in land and legal roles at Shell Oil Company and a Texas-based wholesale electric cooperative and also has served as Vice President, Land & Legal at EnerVest Operating Company and an offshore private-equity backed E&P company. Ms. Clark has also served on non-profit boards and was an independent director for the publicly-traded Brigham Minerals Company, where she served on the Audit Committee and chaired the Nominating and Governance Committee.

Ms. Clark is a proud alumna of both the University of Houston Law Center and Texas Tech University where she obtained a double-major in Petroleum Land Management and Finance. Carrie and her husband, Chris Migura, have three children, a son and daughter attending Memorial High School, and a daughter who is at the University of Texas at Austin.

BIOGRAPHIES

ANDREW CROSS

Of Counsel, Blank Rome LLP

Andrew P. Cross is a seasoned derivatives and investment management attorney who represents financial institutions, commodity trading firms, family offices, public companies and other corporate end-users, registered investment advisers, registered investment companies, and private funds. On the regulatory front, Andrew's practice covers issues arising under federal statutes that govern the use of derivatives for investment or hedging purposes. He routinely advises clients regarding the application of the Commodity Exchange Act, the Securities Act, the Securities Exchange Act, the Investment Company Act, and the Investment Advisers Act.

DEONNE CUNNINGHAM NAULS '06

General Counsel, Skylar Capital Management LP

Deonne Cunningham Nauls is the General Counsel for Skylar Capital Management LP. With over 15 years of experience, her practice includes legal 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.

CATARINA GONZALES (LL.M. '11)

Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Gonzales most recently was a budget and policy advisor for the Office of the Governor, a position she has held since 2018. She was formerly in private practice at law firms in Austin and Houston. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas and on the executive committee of its Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section and the General Land Office Pooling Committee. She is a former board member of the Cossaboom YMCA Board of Directors and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, a former volunteer for Dachshund Rescue of Houston, and a former member of the Easter Seals Greater Houston Young Professionals Advisory Board.

She has been recognized for her leadership in the environmental and government fields by the Houston Business Journal as a recipient of their "40 under 40" award and as a League of Women Voter's "Rising Star" award honoree. Gonzales received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Trinity College, a Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law, and a Master of Laws in Energy and Environmental Law from the University of Houston School of Law. She was also a visiting student at The University of Texas School of Law, where she was on the board of the American Journal of Criminal Law.

BIOGRAPHIES

TRACY HESTER

Associate Instructional Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center; Co-Director, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (EENR) Center; Founding Co-Director, University of Houston Center for Carbon Management in Energy

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. His research focuses 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, Prof. Hester began teaching the first U.S. law school course on Climate Intervention Law, which focuses on emerging climate engineering technologies and its legal challenges.

Professor Hester was named President-Elect of the American College of Environmental Lawyers in 2023 (after serving as a Regent from 2018 to 2021). He also currently 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 of Parties in 2021 (Glasgow), 2022 (Sharm El Sheik), and 2023 (Bonn and Dubai (virtually)). The ABA also elected him to the Council of its Section on Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER) in 2011 through 2014. He 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.

The Global Council on Science and Environment inducted Prof. Hester as a Senior Fellow in 2023, and he represented the Council at the UN's sessions of its Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the pending draft Plastics Convention (including its negotiation session in Paris on June 2023).

Prof. Hester was elected to the American Law Institute in 2004, and named the Top Environmental Lawyer in Houston in 2011 by Best Lawyers of America. In 2014, Prof. 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, Prof. Hester practiced for 25 years and served as a partner in Bracewell LLP for sixteen years. He led that firm's Houston environmental group.

CODY JOHNSON

Chief Executive Officer, SCS Technologies LLC

Cody W. Johnson is Chief Executive Officer of SCS Technologies headquartered in Big Spring, Texas. SCS Technologies designs, fabricates, and services Methane Vapor Recovery Units (VRUs) as well as High Pressure & Cryogenic Molecule Measurement, Custody Transfer, and Leak Detection Skid Systems for LNG, Carbon Dioxide (CCS), Hydrogen, and Helium. The company's Strategy & Innovation office is at The Ion in midtown Houston. Cody is a four-time CEO that has led manufacturing and fabrication companies serving upstream and midstream oil and gas sectors in North America and Asia. Cody has a Law Degree from the University of Houston Law Center and a post-graduate Certificate in Senior Leadership from Harvard Business School.

KEITH LETOURNEAU

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Keith B. Letourneau, Co-Chair of Blank Rome's Maritime Practice Group, focuses his practice on maritime and energy transactions and litigation matters, including collisions and allisions; oil and hazardous materials pollution; contract negotiations and disputes; vessel arrests and attachments; complex commercial litigation; OCSLA transactions and disputes; and cargo damage. Keith served as a trial attorney for both the USCG's Procurement Law Division and the Admiralty Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Division. He is a retired commander of the USCG. His military service included assignments as a deck watch officer aboard a medium-endurance cutter that engaged in drug law enforcement efforts in the Caribbean Basin and as commanding officer of a USCG patrol boat stationed along the southeast Texas coast. He has represented numerous Houston Pilots over the last 25 years before USCG/NTSB marine casualty investigations and pilot board committee investigations.

BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID MORA

Vice President, Carbon Solutions, NextDecade

David Mora, Vice President of Carbon Solutions at NextDecade, is an energy executive and investor with a proven track record of transforming overlooked opportunities into value across the energy and infrastructure sectors. His experience spans diverse operational and investment environments, where he has driven success through acquisitions, divestitures, spin-offs, recapitalization, restructurings, and partnerships. David's career reflects a commitment to tackling challenges in both small and large organizations, preparing him to address each new situation uniquely. Currently focused on advancing carbon capture technologies, he advocates for a pragmatic approach to achieving global net zero ambitions, leveraging his broad experience for sustainable energy solutions.

LINDA PRIMROSE

General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Mitsui & Co (U.S.A.), Inc.

Linda D. Primrose is General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Legal Department for Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc. 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. She oversees a 12-member team in New York, Texas, and California covering the legal function of Mitsui USA, Mitsui Canada and more than 30 regional portfolio companies. Linda has spent almost 18 years with Mitsui and is the first American and first woman 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.

MICHAEL SANDERS

Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Michael Sanders is the lead partner of Blank Rome's Washington, D.C., office tax group. He focuses his practice in the area of taxation, offering particular knowledge in matters affecting partnerships, limited liability companies, S-corporations, real estate, tax controversy, opportunity zone funds, and estate planning, including trusts and estates. He also has a large practice in the area of exempt organizations involving healthcare and low-income housing, associations and joint ventures between for-profits and nonprofits, as well as structuring New Markets Tax Credit ("NMTC") and Historic Tax Credit ("HTC") transactions. He regularly serves as an expert witness in complex litigation. Michael is a frequent speaker on the Opportunity Zone Fund legislation, part of the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act. He advises funds, investors, and real estate companies on the program requirements and provides up-to-date guidance.

GINA S. WARREN

Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center; A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies; Co-Director, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (EENR) 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. Warren's research has also been cited by the Colorado Supreme Court 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.

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