



Sustainable Energy Initiative Update

Electric System Planning for the 21st Century

The U.S. electricity system is changing significantly in response to challenges such as security and reliability threats, increasing renewable energy integration, and regulatory efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Regulators and utilities approach these factors from different perspectives and with different, sometimes conflicting, priorities. As a result, electric system planning remains fragmented both within states and across regions. However, confronting the modern threats facing the grid and meeting new customer demands and expectations will require a comprehensive planning approach that considers needs across a region's entire supply and use chain and better integrates engineering, policy, and market solutions.

In fulfillment of its mission to act as a research-based forum for energy thought leadership, GW Law's Sustainable Energy Initiative is taking a fresh and innovative look at how utility resource planning can address today's grid challenges. With help from collaborators at the UC Berkeley School of Law and various regionally-based organizations, SEI's new Electric System Planning Project will provide a platform for regulators, utilities, and other stakeholders to collaborate to find sustainable and holistic electric system planning solutions. We will be sure to keep you apprised of new updates as the project progresses!

Educating the Next Generation of Energy Lawyers

How do law students become energy lawyers? Many existing energy practitioners will tell you they stumbled into it by happenstance. But in today's job market, cost-sensitive employers looking to reduce their training and turnover costs value students who have already shown a commitment to a practice area and have at least a grounding in the primary statutes, regulations and doctrines.

Over the past year, the Energy Bar Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Energy Law Education, chaired by Donna Attanasio, has been exploring the question of how to attract the best and brightest young lawyers to the energy field and prepare them for the challenges posed by shifting global market forces, climate change and environmental concerns, technological innovations, cyber and physical threats to critical infrastructure and the many other forces that make this one of the most interesting and rapidly changing periods in modern history for the energy industry. The committee has looked at programs that serve a limited population of students and those where energy and environmental law is a primary strength of the law school's curriculum, and among other things, considered what components are essential to the education of an energy lawyer, identified the variations in approaches to energy law education, evaluated the benefits and disadvantages of selected program components, such as student-run journals and subject matter certifications, and explored the question of how to best prepare students to succeed in a competitive job market. On the latter point, not surprisingly, the committee has concluded that subject matter training is not a substitute for traditionally valued skills, as demonstrated by a strong academic record, publications and substantive work experience; but it can help further distinguish a student in a competitive job market by showing both the student's aptitude and interest in the field.

The committee's report, which will be delivered to the Energy Bar Association's board of directors during the first quarter of 2015 is intended to help students, administrators, educators and employers better understand how energy law is taught in the U.S. The report is not intended to be a prescriptive guide. Rather the committee concluded early in its deliberations that the diversity of approaches is a strength, which provides students with multiple opportunities and meets the diverse needs of the job market. However, the report is expected to better inform students of the choices they have available to them, help employers understand how and why programs differ, and continue the process of cross-fertilization among academic institutions as they maintain and develop their programs.

Alumni Updates



Stephen Burns takes the oath of office as an NRC Commissioner from NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane, right.

Last month, President Obama appointed GW Law alum Stephen G. Burns, JD '78, to chair the Nuclear Regulatory Commission effective January 1 of this year. As we announced in our November 16, 2014 news update, Burns became a NRC Commissioner in November 2014, after having spent two years as the Head of Legal Affairs for the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Before serving at the OECD, Burns worked at the NRC in various capacities for over 30 years. His term ends in June 2019.

Faculty and Staff Updates



Professor Robert Glicksman recently published the second edition of his casebook, *Administrative Law: Agency Action in Legal Context* (Foundation Press 2015), co-authored with Richard Levy. He also published *A Holistic Look at Agency Enforcement*, 93 N.C. L. Rev. 1 (2014), which he co-authored with David Markell of Florida State University College of Law, and gave a presentation on that article at the University of Michigan Law School in November. He is scheduled to speak at a congressional staff briefing this month on regulation of greenhouse gas emissions under section 111 of the Clean Air Act.

Professor Emily Hammond published a Response Article, *Court-Agency Dialogue: Article III's Dual Nature and the Boundaries of Reviewability*, in 82 Geo. Wash. L. Rev. Arguendo 171 (2014). In addition, Professor Hammond is now the Chair-Elect of the Association of American Law Schools' Administrative Law Section, and she also served as a Commentator at the "New Voices in Administrative Law" discussion section at the 2015 AALS Annual Meeting.



Upcoming Events

January 26-27, 2015:

The Energy Bar Association presents the newest addition to its primer series: **An Introduction**

to Federal Oil Pipeline Regulation. The goal of the primer is to provide an overview of the federal economic regulatory scheme over oil and refined products pipelines. The primer is taught by industry practitioners as well as FERC regulators and will be hosted by Vinson & Elkins, LLP, in Houston, Texas. For more information, see [here](#).

January 26 -29, 2015:

- The Energy Bar Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Energy Law Education will present its findings to-date in its year-long study of energy law education at the 1st annual **National Energy Education Summit** and solicit further input in the afternoon workshop. The Summit, which is sponsored by the **Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders (CEREL)**, will be held on January 26, 2015. The presenters of the EBA study will include Donna Attanasio, who chairs the committee, and committee member Nancy J. Skancke, JD '75. Find more information [here](#).
- The one-day education summit will precede the 15th National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment, sponsored by the **National Council for Science and Environment** on January 27-29. This year, NCSE will take up the issue of Energy and Climate Change. Amory Lovins will give the John H. Chafee Memorial Lecture at the NCSE event. Sessions include "Reinventing Utilities" which will include a presentation by Donna Attanasio on the Minnesota e21 project.
- Both events will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, VA (near Reagan National Airport). Register for one or both conferences [here](#).

February 17-20, 2015:

On February 19, Donna Attanasio will speak at the IEEE Power & Energy Society conference on **Innovative Smart Grid Technologies**, on the plenary panel addressing "State and Local Government Policies Driving Smart Grid Adoption." For more information about this conference, click [here](#).

March 3, 2015:

The Energy Bar Association will hold its annual **Enforcers and Defenders Conference** at GW Law. For more information, click [here](#), or continue to watch this space.

March 26-27, 2015:

GW Law along with the EPA, Environment Law Institute, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement will co-sponsor the 2015 J.B. & Maurice C. Shapiro Environmental Law Symposium on **"The Role of Advanced Monitoring, Remote Sensing, and New Forms of Information Gathering, Analysis, and Disclosure in Environmental Compliance and Enforcement."** A follow-up conference will take place at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands in April 2015. More information will be forthcoming.

May 18, 2015:

GW Law will host the **Cybersecurity Summit for Critical Infrastructure Industries**, sponsored by ABA's Section on Energy & the Environment. This Summit will focus on threats and protections pertinent to the electricity and water-services industries. Stay tuned for more information.

Recommended Reading

- This [Greentech Media article](#) does a great job of encapsulating and summarizing last year's top energy stories in a series of easy-to-remember numbers.
- The GridWise Alliance, in partnership with the Department of Energy's Office of

Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, recently released its report titled "[The Future of the Grid: Evolving to Meet America's Needs.](#)" The report is a must-read blueprint for evolving the electricity system to meet the challenges posed by climate change, cyber security threats, and increased renewables integration.

For more information on the GW Law Sustainable Energy Initiative, please click [here](#).

Stay Connected



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