



## Sustainable Energy Initiative Update

Community news... Upcoming Events... Recommended Reading

### GW Law Alumni in the News

Congratulations to NRC's Newest Commissioner: Stephen Burns

After being nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate, on November 5, 2014, GW Law alum Stephen Burns, JD '78, was sworn in as a Commissioner at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Prior to taking this new post, Burns served as the Head of Legal Affairs for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency. Before joining the OECD in 2012, Burns worked at the NRC in various capacities for over 20 years. His term will expire on June 30, 2019.

Alliance to Save Energy Honors Earle O'Donnell

Earle O'Donnell, JD '75 and a member of the GW Law Energy Law Advisory Board, was honored by the Alliance to Save Energy at its annual awards banquet in September 2014. Earle served on the board and as the Alliance's counsel for 21 years. The Alliance's service award was presented to him in appreciation for his years of dedication in support or energy efficiency.



### GW Law Community Supports CFEBA and Solar Suitcases

Last week, the Energy Bar Association held its Mid-Year Meeting in Washington D.C., which was followed on the evening of November 4 by the annual Gala and Silent Auction of the Energy Bar Association's Charitable Foundation (CFEBA). The DC locale provided an opportunity for GW Law students interested in energy to participate in the Mid-Year Meeting as attendees and volunteers. Additional students were able to attend the Gala and network with their future energy bar colleagues thanks to a generous ticket donation from our alumna, Susan N. Kelly, J.D. '80, President and CEO of the American Public Power Association. The Gala raised over \$10,000 to support CFEBA's work, including a grant to WeCareSolar which assembles [medical solar suitcases](#) to provide electric power in medical clinics where there is no other access to electricity, in order to help save the lives of mothers and children during childbirth. It was also an occasion to honor the members of the energy bar and their firms who have made CFEBA's work possible. A special Friend of CFEBA award was made to Susan Kelly, for her generous giving and continuous support of the foundation. In addition, 14 organizations were honored for five consecutive years of CFEBA support as benefactors. Below are some photos of the event courtesy of Lloyd Meurer Portrait Studio. [www.portraitphotographer.com](http://www.portraitphotographer.com)



*Clockwise from above: Susan Kelly accepts the Friend of the CFEBA award in honor of her dedication and generosity to the Foundation; GW Students Jack Erffmeyer and Miles Kiger chat with CFEBA President Marcia Hooks; Ms. Hooks presents Energy Law Advisory Board member Robert Loeffler with CFEBA's award to the Morrison & Foester Foundation; GW Law students Ryan Mock and Ana Atta-Alla stop to compare notes at the Gala*



## GW Law Faculty and Staff Scholarship

The Sustainable Energy Initiative is continuing to devote substantial effort to the e21 Initiative which is a collaborative process for developing recommendations to restructure utility business and regulatory models for the electric sector in Minnesota. While e21's recommendations and report are not yet ready for release, Minnesota is one of the states being closely watched by the [press](#) and others.

Last month, Associate Dean Paddock presented a class on "Sustainable Energy for All" at Florida A&M University Law School and spoke to students at Barry University Law School on hydraulic fracturing. (For more information about GW Law's work on the Sustainable Energy for All project, please click [here](#)). Dean Paddock is currently working with Visiting Professor and Environmental Law Fellow Nicholas Bryner on a book chapter discussing community benefit agreements for siting renewable energy facilities in the U.S.

In keeping with GW Law's tradition of energy and environmental scholarship, several GW Law professors have announced forthcoming articles and books. Foundation Press just published a new book, [Statutory Analysis in the Regulatory State](#), co-authored by Professor Glicksman and Richard Levy of the University of Kansas, and will soon release the second edition of Professor Glicksman's co-authored casebook, [Administrative Law: Agency Action in Legal Context](#). Professor Hammond's recently published article, [Chevron's Generality Principles](#), can be found in the most recent volume of the Fordham Law Review (83 Fordham L. Rev. 655 (2014)). In addition, in October, Professor Hammond served as a discussant at the George Mason University Law School symposium, "Dynamic Environmentalism: Ecology, Economics, and the Law," and gave a presentation on the APA at the American Bar Association's Administrative Law Conference in Washington, DC. She also served as a moderator for GW Law's J.B. & Maurice C. Shapiro Adaptive Management Workshop in September.

On October 21, Donna Attanasio, Senior Advisor for Energy Law Programs at GW Law, gave a keynote address at the annual meeting of the Organization of MISO States. She spoke about emerging trends and their implications for the future of the electric utility sector.

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following:

- **January 26, 2015:** The Energy Bar Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Energy Law Education will present its findings to-date in their year-long study of energy law education at the 1st annual **National Energy Education Summit**, which is sponsored by the

Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders (CEREL). The presenters will include Donna Attanasio, who chairs the committee, committee member Nancy J. Skancke, J.D. '75 and others. 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, which this year will take up the issue of Energy and Climate Change. Amory Lovins will give the John H. Chafee Memorial Lecture at the NCSE event. Both events will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, Virginia (near Reagan National Airport). Register for one or both conferences here. Information about sponsoring the National Energy Education Summit can be found at

- **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.

## Recent Events

On October 2, GW Law hosted and co-sponsored with the Energy Bar Association a seminar on NERC Compliance & Enforcement. The event was well-attended by energy law practitioners and regulators, as well as students. Later that same day, the Environmental Law Institute held a reception for its newly released book, Next Generation Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, edited by Associate Dean Lee Paddock and former Visiting Professor and Environmental Law Fellow Jessica Wentz. Professor Rob Glicksman also contributed a chapter to the book. Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, gave the keynote address and warmly praised Dean Paddock and GW for providing vision and leadership in this area.

## Recommended Reading

Interesting news items and information:

- We all know that Amazon, Facebook and others collect our data and shoot back ads tailored for us. But has your utility company ever sent you an ad for energy efficiency just when you were looking for it? Well, that day may not be far off. For more about market segmentation and energy efficiency go [here](#). And think about it ... with the new availability of data, rate classes could be the next area for segmentation and targeted product placement!
- Have we reached grid parity?
  - A [report](#) from Lazard on the levelized cost of energy, shows some solar, as well as wind, technologies are cost-competitive with fossil fuel units, without subsidies.
  - A [very recent news article from Greentech Media](#) about the end of California's rooftop solar incentives reports that the termination of this incentive program is not being met with protests or requests for extensions; rather it served its purpose of kick-starting the market and is now closing down as planned.
- For fun: [Infographic of the 10 largest power plants in the world](#) - can you predict how many different technologies are represented?
- Just in time for the projected "[Bomb Cyclone](#)" to hit the northern U.S., here is a [reminder from the EIA](#) of how cold weather drives up energy-related CO2 emissions.
- Last week, Paris-based renewable energy developer and project manager Neoen [began constructing Europe's largest solar plant](#). With a capacity of 300 MW, the \$450 million plant will provide enough electricity to power more than 230,000 homes and businesses when it becomes operation in October 2015.

For more in-depth consideration of the changes in the electric industry, there is no shortage of useful articles to read or projects to review. But in the process of developing a reading list for a new course, we've found a few that help cut to the chase:

- [ACEEE, The Future of the Utility Industry and the Role of Energy Efficiency \(June 2014\)](#). This report summarizes the recommendations from 50 different "utility of the future" reports and then analyzes them relative to various objectives and synthesizes them to develop a set of recommendations for short, medium and long term actions. It also adjusts the EIA's annual energy outlook projections for electricity demand to layer in more energy efficiency and then provides regional load growth projections - which are generally low, but not at all uniform.
- [Carl Linvill, John Shenot, Jim Lazar, Designing Distributed Generation Tariffs Well \(Regulatory Assistance Project, Nov. 2013\)](#). This very thoughtful discussion does a tremendous job of analyzing how various rate designs could be applied to distribution customers, in their new roles as prosumers (producers and consumers). Of particular note, the authors consider the pros and cons of different designs from multiple perspectives, making it a useful guide for regulators, policy-makers, incumbent utilities, other service providers and customers. Students and others new to the area of rate design will particularly appreciate how the authors' readable and comprehensible text makes a difficult subject accessible.
- [The Brattle Group's new study for Oncor](#), finds that up to 5,000 MW of storage in the Texas ERCOT market would provide societal and ratepayer benefits. But, the incentives for installation are spread across wholesale markets participants, T&D providers and customers (who would experience reduced outages) such that none have adequate incentive, alone, to invest. The report calls for new regulatory mechanisms and market structures to support investment in storage.

## Thank you!

Many thanks to the generosity of our alumni and other energy colleagues who have provided financial support, internships, tickets to professional events for our students, and other assistance to our program. Your feedback as well as your assistance are always welcome. If you have questions or comments, please contact Donna Attanasio at [dattanasio@law.gwu.edu](mailto:dattanasio@law.gwu.edu) or 202 994 0859.

*If you prefer to not be on the GW Law SEI mailing list, please just reply to [dattanasio@law.gwu.edu](mailto:dattanasio@law.gwu.edu) with a request to be removed.*

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

## Stay Connected



The George Washington University Law School  
2000 H Street NW  
Washington, DC 20052

[www@law.gwu.edu](mailto:www@law.gwu.edu) | <http://www.law.gwu.edu>

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