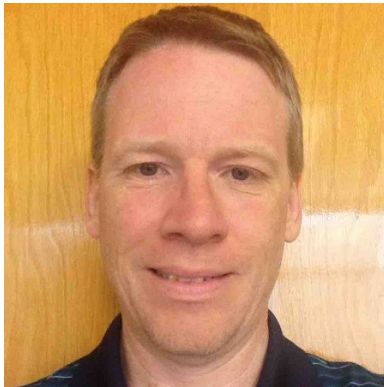




## Speaker Biographies

# The State of Renewable Energy Law in North Carolina: NCSEA's 2019 Continuing Legal Education

February 12, 2019 | 8:00am – 5:45pm | Raleigh Convention Center



**Charles Bayless** is the Vice President, Senior Regulatory Counsel at the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. Charlie works on renewable energy issues for the NCEMC. Charlie is involved in the negotiation, modification, and operation of all NCEMC's wholesale contracts. Prior to joining NCEMC, he was Counsel at American Electric Power. He received a law degree from West Virginia University, his MBA from the University of Arizona, his master's degree in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas, and his bachelor's degree from Virginia Military Institute.



**Dave Blalock** is counsel for the U.S. Army's Regional Environmental & Energy Office located in Atlanta, Georgia. His office is responsible for monitoring and responding to State environmental and energy policy activities that impact Department of Defense operations in the Southeast. In this role, Dave also provides legal support for large-scale energy resilience projects at military bases in the region, as well as coordinating with State officials on energy facility siting issues.



**Lauren Bowen** is an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of natural resources, communities, and special places in a six-state region of the Southeast. SELC partners with over 150 national and local groups to achieve its goals and works in all three branches of government. Lauren's practice focuses on promoting clean, renewable solar power. She received her law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her work is based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



**John Burnett** is a Deputy General Counsel with Duke Energy Corporation and works in the State and Federal Support group of the company's legal department in Charlotte. John provides regulatory legal support for major corporate initiatives in the company's regulated jurisdictions and currently oversees regulatory dockets dealing with coal combustion and grid improvement initiatives. John received his law degree from the Florida State University College of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina.



**Jennifer Chen** focuses on electricity and infrastructure policy design to account for newer resources and technologies, such as emissions-free resources, electricity storage, advanced transmission technologies, and demand-side resources. Jennifer has testified on infrastructure and grid modernization issues before the U.S. Congress and on electricity markets issues before FERC. Prior to joining the Nicholas Institute, Jennifer was an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. Jennifer started her energy policy career as an attorney-advisor at FERC. She received her law degree from New York University School of Law and earned her Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Chicago.



**Thad Culley** is Regional Director for Vote Solar, a non-profit organization that focuses primarily on state policies to bring solar energy into the mainstream of consumer choices and utility planning. Thad works on solar campaigns in the Carolinas and Virginia, but also is involved as legal counsel on regulatory matters concerning customer access to rooftop solar. Prior to joining Vote Solar, Thad was a partner with the law firm Keyes & Fox LLP, establishing the firm's presence in North Carolina. Thad represented clients in general rate cases, net metering and interconnection rulemakings, and solar-specific tariff filings across multiple jurisdictions during his years in private practice. Thad received his law degree from Tulane University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from NC State University.



**Hamilton Davis** is the Director of Regulatory Affairs for Southern Current LLC, a leading solar developer in the residential, commercial and utility-scale markets with over 400 megawatts of installed system capacity currently providing power to Southeastern customers. His current practice includes multiple state and federal utility proceedings related to avoided costs, integrated resource planning, interconnection, rate design, and PURPA. Prior to joining Southern Current, Hamilton spent a decade working on clean energy policy and regulatory issues for the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League. Hamilton earned his undergraduate degree from Clemson University and received his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.



**Tim Dodge** is a staff attorney with the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Tim works primarily on electric issues, including avoided cost proceedings, interconnection issues, general rate cases, renewable energy portfolio standard (REPS) compliance, HB589 implementation, and other matters. Prior to joining the Public Staff in 2011, Tim worked as a legislative analyst and legislative counsel for the Research Division at the North Carolina General Assembly. Here, he staffed the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee; the House Energy and Energy Efficiency; Water and Water Infrastructure; Environment and Natural Resources; and Judiciary III Committees. Tim earned his undergraduate and master's degrees from North Carolina State University and his law degree from UNC School of Law.



**David Drooz** is Chief Counsel for the Public Staff, North Carolina Utilities Commission. The Public Staff represents consumer interests in utility proceedings, including the regulated electric, natural gas, water and sewer utilities in North Carolina. David has most recently worked on general rate cases of major electric companies and energy efficiency cases. He started legal work as a staff attorney at the N.C. Court of Appeals. Since then he has spent about half his career as in-house counsel at NC State University and half at the Public Staff. David received his undergraduate degree from Haverford College and his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.





**Adam Foodman** is the Chief Operating Officer for O2 emc, LLC and O2 Energies, Inc. Adam was the founding and managing partner of the law firm Foodman Hunter and Karres for 20 years prior to joining the O2 companies. He worked on some of the first utility-scale solar PURPA Qualified Facility transactions in North Carolina and continues to work closely on regulatory issues for the O2 Companies and the Solar Industry in the State. Adam is the Vice-President of NCCEBA and serves on the PURPA committee at SEIA. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his law degree from Mercer University.



**Tyson Grinstead** is the Director for Public Policy at Sunrun, the largest dedicated rooftop solar company in America. In this role, Tyson covers policy for the 12 southeastern states. Prior to his position with Sunrun, Tyson served as the Political Director for U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina Republican Party's Victory 2014 campaign, and for Congressman Tom Rice's 2012 primary election campaign. Tyson received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.



**Brad Ives** is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Enterprises & Chief Sustainability Officer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In this role, Brad is responsible for energy services, sustainability, food service, student stores, transportation & parking, licensing & trademark and other business operations. Brad also serves as Director of the NC Policy Collaboratory. Brad joined the University of North Carolina from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, where he served as assistant secretary for natural resources. He has also served in leadership positions at Davidson River Capital LLC, Integro Earth Fuels, Inc., Illumination Renewables, and Babson Capital. Brad received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Jack Jirak** is the Associate General Counsel at Duke Energy Corporation. In this role, Jack represents clients in energy-related matters involving traditional energy regulatory matters and litigation at a state and federal level as well as transactional work. Jack's work has included extensive involvement in state rate-making proceedings, resource certification applications, and construction cost monitoring proceedings and fuel cost recovery proceedings. Jack has also worked with numerous clients in connection with the drafting and negotiation of purchase and sale agreements, power purchase agreements, net metering arrangements, engineering, procurement and construction agreements, operating and maintenance agreements, REC purchase agreements, emission allowance sale agreements, ISDA and EEI master agreements and related credit issues. He received his undergraduate degree from Hampden-Sydney College and his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Karen Kemerait** is a Partner with Fox Rothschild. Her practice focuses in the areas of utilities, zoning, and land use; telecommunications; and administrative law. Karen represents numerous privately-owned and municipal water and wastewater companies, natural gas companies, and telecommunications companies in regulatory matters before the North Carolina Utilities Commission and in the purchase, sale, and construction of facilities. She also regularly represents telecommunications clients before state governmental agencies, permitting officials, and local zoning boards throughout North Carolina, as well as in appeals in state and federal courts. She frequently appears before Boards of Commissioners and City and Town Councils to obtain rezonings, special use and conditional permits, ordinance interpretations, and variances. Karen received her undergraduate degree from Davidson College and her law degree from Wake Forest University.



**Katharine Kollins** is President of the Southeastern Wind Coalition, a non-profit dedicated to advancing wind power in the Southeast through outreach and education. Katharine manages SEWC's programming across 11 states working with a wide variety of stakeholders to promote land-based, offshore, and imported wind power. Prior to her role with the SEWC, Katharine held other positions across the finance and renewable energy industries. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and both an MBA and Master of Environmental Management with a concentration in Energy from Duke's Fuqua School of Business and Nicholas School of the Environment.



**Peter Ledford** is the General Counsel of NC Sustainable Energy Association and directs NCSEA's legal engagement at the North Carolina Utilities Commission and other policy-making venues. In this role, Peter aims to support and protect the fair rules that encourage clean energy market development, as well as those that govern how power providers set and recover electric rates. Peter's work is critical in ensuring clean energy continues to penetrate and fairly compete in North Carolina's regulated monopoly environment. Peter received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his law degree from Wake Forest University.



**Jonas Monast** is the C. Boyden Gray Distinguished Fellow at Carolina Law and directs the Center on Climate, Energy, Environment & Economics. Jonas' work focuses on the interaction of federal and state energy policies, aligning energy and environmental policy goals, and regulatory options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to joining the Carolina Law faculty, he directed the Climate and Energy Program at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and taught courses on energy and environmental issues at Duke University's School of Law and Nicholas School of the Environment. He has also worked as an attorney in the Corporate Social Responsibility Practice at Foley Hoag LLP, as a congressional fellow for the late Senator Paul Wellstone, and as legislative counsel for the Center for Responsible Lending. Jonas earned his undergraduate degree from Appalachian State University and his law degree from Georgetown University.



**David Neal** is a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center in Chapel Hill, where he focuses on clean energy policy and environmental justice. David serves on the boards of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and Repairers of the Breach. He has previously served on the boards of the Orange County Commission for the Environment, Common Sense Foundation, NC Conservation Network, and the Proteus Fund. David received his undergraduate degree at Oberlin College and his law degree from UNC Chapel Hill.



**Dan Reiter** is a Partner with Fox Rothschild in the Philadelphia office. He represents a range of developers, owners, and operators, lenders and investors, and a diverse group of other businesses and principals in connection with real estate, finance, and other transactional matters. Dan began his legal career in the finance and real estate department of an international law firm. Dan received his undergraduate degree from Brown University and his law degree from Harvard University.



**Deborah Ross** is Of Counsel with Fox Rothschild. In this role, she focuses her practice on meeting the economic development, energy, utilities, and infrastructure needs of businesses and government. Deborah represents clients before government agencies and permitting officials, as well as in appeals to state and federal courts. Deborah brings a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors, from her work as General Counsel to the Research Triangle's regional transit authority, a decade in private practice focusing on infrastructure, energy and utilities, leadership of a statewide non-profit organization, and her longstanding service to the state of North Carolina as an elected representative. Deborah received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and her law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.





**Katherine Ross** is a Partner with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein. Katherine has assisted in the development of over 1,500 MW of renewable energy generation in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia and advises clients on land use, zoning, and economic development matters. Katherine received her undergraduate degree from Davidson College, a master's degree in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a law degree from the North Carolina Central University School of Law.



**Steven Shparber** is Of Counsel at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and based in Washington, DC, where he is a member of the Firm's Energy & Utilities Industry group. He co-founded and is counsel to the Solar RTO Coalition, a coalition of utility-scale solar developers and capital providers that works to influence the development of wholesale power markets so that they provide additional market opportunities for solar and solar plus storage technologies. Before joining Nelson Mullins, Steven was in-house counsel at PJM Interconnection, LLC, where he advised PJM's leadership and subject matter experts on a wide variety of issues related to PJM's markets, operations, and planning functions. Steven received his undergraduate degree from New York University, an MBA from Villanova University and his law degree from New York University.



**Ben Snowden** is a clean energy and environmental lawyer with Kilpatrick Townsend. His energy practice focuses on representing companies developing or acquiring energy projects, in particular PURPA qualifying facilities. He has helped these companies to negotiate power purchase agreements with utilities and other offtakers. Mr. Snowden has represented independent power producers in disputes with utilities related to interconnection of solar qualifying facilities, and resolved regulatory disputes before state utilities commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.





**Gray Styers** is a Partner with Fox Rothschild. He practices in the areas of regulatory and administrative law, energy/utilities law, zoning/land use, government relations, and large infrastructure matters. In this role, he represents energy, telecommunications, and project development clients before state government agencies, permitting officials, and local zoning boards as well as in appeals to both state and federal courts. He serves as regulatory counsel for renewable energy facilities, two natural gas distribution companies as well as municipal natural gas systems, advises independent power producers and major wireless telecommunications service providers, and handles zoning and permitting for large commercial and residential developments and infrastructure projects. Gray received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and his MBA and a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Gudrun Thompson** is a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, a regional environmental advocacy organization with offices across the Southeast. She received her law degree from the University of North Carolina, and clerked for both federal district court and state appellate court judges before joining SELC's North Carolina office in 2004. Gudrun focuses on advocating for electric utilities in the Carolinas to transition away from dependence on fossil fuels and toward clean energy resources like energy efficiency and renewable energy. Based in Chapel Hill, Gudrun practices before the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and state and federal courts.



**Marcus Trathen** is a Partner with Brooks Pierce. His practice spans communications law, utilities regulation, mass media, the Internet, intellectual property, and legislative representation. He focuses on issues such as telecommunications regulation, media, and the First Amendment, the Internet law and regulation, broadcast licensing and regulation, municipal regulation and licensing, regulatory certification and compliance, and intellectual property licensing. He practices primarily before the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and local governments.



**Laura Walter** is the Senior Lead Economist of the Advanced Analytics Department of PJM Interconnection. Ms. Walter evaluates strategic market design and economic issues for PJM, including quantitative and qualitative analytical support on topics that impact PJM strategy, including state and federal policy initiatives, technological advances and broader economic trends. Ms. Walter focuses on market design and economic trends in electricity markets and grid operations. Currently, Laura is leading a team to implement FERC Order 841: Electric Storage Participation in Markets Operated by RTOs and ISOs in PJM.