

## **Energy Bar Association's – Rocky Mountain Chapter CLE Event Speaker Biographies**

### **Bobby Dischell, *General Counsel, Cloudbreak Energy***

Bobby serves as Cloudbreak's General Counsel where he advises the firm's leadership team and manages legal and compliance functions.

Previously, Bobby was an attorney at a prominent Denver-based law firm, where he handled complex real estate development and advanced energy matters, including serving as lead attorney for one of the nation's largest developers and institutional equity providers. Bobby serves as a publicly elected official on the Regional Transportation District's (RTD's) Board of Directors. Bobby began his career as a middle school teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools. Bobby received his BA in Public Policy from the University of Michigan, an MS from Johns Hopkins University, and a JD from the University of Colorado.

### **Ruben Arredondo, *Energy Infrastructure Lawyer & Regulatory Consultant, Regime Energy Partners***

Ruben is a solutions-oriented and business-sensitive energy professional who transitioned from a pivotal role regulating utility scale renewable and electrical infrastructure in western North America first as the administrative law judge for the Utah Public utilities Commission then as in-house counsel at WECC. He is a strategic advisor for a broad spectrum of clients within the energy sector, including utility-scale renewable energy developers, microgrid and virtual power plant innovators, EnergyTech companies, as well as state and international regulators. With a keen eye for business development and a knack for navigating complex regulatory environments, he excels in fostering collaborative efforts among diverse project teams to enhance project viability and profitability. His unique blend of legal expertise and commercial insight, equips him with the agility to drive complex and capital-intensive energy projects from conception to commercial operation. Ruben's hands-on experience across all phases of project development, including FID, pre-NTP, post-NTP, and COD stages, positions him as an asset to energy companies seeking practical, efficient, and impactful solutions to advance their high-yield projects.

### **Kaitlyn DeYoung, *Associate, K&L Gates***

Kaitlyn DeYoung is an associate in the firm's Kansas City office. She is a member of the firm's Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources practice. Kaitlyn's practice focuses on the development, acquisition, and disposition of renewable power projects.

Kaitlyn enjoys working with clients to build energy projects from the ground up by guiding them from origination through operation. With deep understanding of site control, permitting, equipment procurement, and construction, as well as the intersection of each with local governmental authorities, Kaitlyn provides practical solutions to turn projects from idea to a

physical reality. Kaitlyn also advises clients on the acquisition and disposition of power projects at varying stages of development, including operating assets.

**Sarah C. Judkins, *Associate*, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP**

Sarah Judkins advises and represents clients on a range of air quality, climate change, energy, and public lands issues before state and federal regulatory bodies and agencies, as well as in federal and state court. She counsels clients on the best strategy to reach desired outcomes, which may include policy, regulatory, or litigation tools, or some combination thereof. Sarah's experience extends to practicing before the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, and the Interior Board of Land Appeals, in addition to numerous state and federal courts. She has also represented clients seeking approvals from the Department of the Interior, the United States Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and several Colorado state agencies. Sarah advises clients across numerous sectors, including renewable energy, recreation, and conservation.

**Erin Green, *Attorney-Advisor*, Transmission Infrastructure Program, Western Area Power Administration**

Erin Green serves as an attorney-advisor at Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), where she serves as lender's counsel to WAPA's Transmission Infrastructure Program (TIP), a \$3.25 billion loan program for electric transmission infrastructure development. Notably, Green served as WAPA's Chief of Staff for seven years where she provided one-on-one guidance and support to WAPA's Administrator and CEO and led complex organizational assessments involving teams across WAPA's 15-state territory.

Green has also served multiple assignments in WAPA's Liaison Office in Washington, D.C., where she worked closely with various DOE officials, members of Congress and committee and subcommittee staff, the White House and its executive offices, and representatives from national trade associations. Most recently, she served as professional staff for a council of WAPA's regional Vice Presidents of Finance and Vice Presidents of Power Marketing in policy and program development, implementation, and reporting. Green began her tenure at WAPA by serving as legal counsel in WAPA's Office of General Counsel. There she provided counsel to WAPA's TIP in its earliest days, as well as represented WAPA's interests in other DOE transmission development programs.

Green received her J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law in 2009 and received a B.S. in Environmental Science from Regis University in 2003, where she graduated magna cum laude. In 2015 she also earned an A.A.S. in Electrical Transmission System Technology from Bismarck State College. She is licensed to practice law in Colorado.

Green served several years as a director and officer of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Energy Bar Association, and most recently and served as chapter president for the 2020-2021 term.

**Christa Melde, *AI Enterprise Customer Success Manager, Document Intelligence Thomson Reuters***

Christa Melde is an Artificial Intelligence Solutions Consultant at Thomson Reuters. Her goal is to revolutionize the practice of law through innovative AI-driven workflows. Prior to her time at Thomson Reuters, Christa served as a Product Manager for FastCase's immigration solution and as Chief Operating Officer of Catalyst Law in Phoenix, AZ.

**Rebecca White, *Director, Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Department of Regulatory Agencies***

Rebecca White is the current Director at the Department of Regulatory Agencies in Colorado's Public Utilities Commission. Previously, White has worked within the Federal Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC. Most recently, White worked for the Colorado Department of Transportation in several roles, most recently as the director of the Division of Transportation Development. White holds a bachelor's degree in political science and government from the University of Oregon and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Texas.

**Michael Hiatt, *Deputy Managing Attorney, Earthjustice***

Michael Hiatt is a deputy managing attorney. Michael joined Earthjustice's Rocky Mountain office in the spring of 2010. He received his law degree from Duke University School of Law in 2009, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum* and graduated Order of the Coif.

During law school, Michael worked in Earthjustice's Northern Rockies office on endangered species issues and at the [National Wildlife Federation](#) on seeking responsible oil and gas development on public lands. After graduating law school, Michael worked on climate and air issues as a fellow with [Environmental Defense Fund](#) and on water issues at the Environmental Protection Agency. Michael received a Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in communications in 2000 from Ohio University.

**Chief Judge Harris Adams, *Chief Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Public Utilities Commission***

Harris is the Chief Administrative Law Judge at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. In his primary function, he presides over hearings in referred public utility matters. In addition, he utilizes his technical expertise to leverage existing resources and maximize efficiency and reliability of Commission processes.

Harris was in private practice for approximately eleven years before joining the Office of the Attorney General in 2001 to represent the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel in public utility matters. He joined the Commission as an administrative law judge in 2005 and was promoted to his current position in 2012.

Harris has a diverse background that allows him to fully understand information technology as a business support function and to bridge the gap between business and technical functions. A double major in Accounting and Finance from Texas A&M University provides a strong foundation for understanding business processes. He has fulfilled several roles in small businesses as attorney, accountant, consultant, and owner.

Harris has demonstrated expertise in the selection, design, and implementation of computer hardware resources for a variety of small business. He is also experienced with several software operating systems and applications. He has maintained, administered, and supported computers in a variety of environments.

Harris uses his passion and experience to improve Commission processes.

**Judge Conor F. Farley, Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Public Utilities Commission**

Conor has been an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) since 2016. From 2014 to 2016, Conor practiced with the Office of Attorney General providing legal counsel to the Commissioners of the PUC.

Conor started his legal career as a clerk for then-Chief Judge Lewis T. Babcock of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. After completing his clerkship, Conor practiced with Holland & Hart LLP for thirteen years, focusing on intellectual property litigation and other complex commercial litigation.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Conor worked in the intelligence community. Conor obtained his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served on the Virginia Law Review.

**Casey Federico, J.D., Administrator V, Colorado Public Utilities Commission**

Casey is an Administrator V with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. She oversees the use of technology within the Commission, particularly in the its various hearings, meetings, and workshops. She also assists the ALJs, Commissioners, and Commission Counsel with hearing exhibit procedures and requirements in evidentiary hearings and assists the ALJs with writing interim and recommended decisions.

Casey has been with the Commission since 2021, when she began as a Legal Assistant II. She was promoted to her current position in 2023.

Prior to joining the Commission, Casey attended Chapman University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology before graduating from the University of Colorado Law School in 2017. She then practiced law for three and a half years, in both the public sector and in private practice.

**Judge Alenka J. Han, J.D., Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Public Utilities Commission**

Alenka is an Administrative Law Judge at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. She joined the PUC in 2022. She presides over hearings in referred public utility matters, including matters involving regulated energy, electricity, natural gas, transportation, and telecommunications.

Prior to commencing her work with the PUC, Alenka worked as a civil litigator in private practice for approximately eleven years before joining the Colorado Court of Appeals as a Staff Attorney in 2006. Her work at the Court of Appeals covered a wide range of legal areas including civil litigation, workers' compensation, unemployment, and governmental immunity. She was also involved in the Court's motions practice and jurisdictional screening of incoming appeals. As a fresh legal graduate, Alenka served as a law clerk to the Chief Judge of the Boulder District Court, Joseph Bellipanni. Alenka draws on her extensive litigation and legal writing background to handle disputes, litigated matters, and hearings at the PUC.

Alenka received her undergraduate degree in Classical Civilizations from the University of Chicago in 1989, and her law degree from the University of Colorado in 1994. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and all the outdoor opportunities available to those lucky enough to live in Colorado.

**Judge Melody Mirbaba, Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Public Utilities Commission**

Melody Mirbaba has devoted her career to public service. Melody has been an Administrative Law Judge with the Public Utilities Commission for a total of seven years. Before that, she served in several roles at the Colorado Attorney General's Office for approximately 14 years. For example, she was Deputy Attorney General for the State Services Section at the Colorado Attorney General's Office. In that role, Melody was responsible for overseeing the representation provided by the Section's attorneys to Colorado's statewide elected officials, and many other State entities. She also served as an Assistant Attorney General and Senior Assistant Attorney General representing elected officials in cases involving constitutional issues with statewide and national impacts. In 2010, Melody received the Governor Ralph L. Carr Award for Excellence in Public Service from the Asian American Bar Association. Melody volunteered for many years as a faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, and previously served on the Second Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission, where she interviewed and voted on nominees for judicial officers for the Second Judicial District. In 1996, Melody received her undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University, and in 1999, she received her juris doctorate from University of Denver, Sturm College of Law.

**Judge Aviv Segev, J.D., Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Public Utilities Commission**

Aviv is an Administrative Law Judge with the Administrative Hearings Section the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Before joining the Public Utilities Commission as an

Administrative Law Judge, he worked with the Division of Securities as a Securities Investigator, where he exposed, and helped bring to justice, securities con artists. Before joining the Colorado Division of Securities, Aviv practiced law with two Denver law firms and at the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

As an Administrative Law Judge at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Aviv tries to draw on his professional background by fairly presiding over hearings, ruling on motions and objections, analyzing and deciding disputed facts and legal issues after weighing the relevant evidence, and drafting coherent legal decisions.