

# Pennsylvania Chamber Annual Environmental Conference

October 24, 2024 | Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey

## AGENDA

- 8:00 A.M.      **Registration, Breakfast, Exhibits**
- 8:30 A.M.      **Welcome Remarks from the PA Chamber and Sponsors**  
– Luke Bernstein, President & CEO, PA Chamber of Business and Industry
- 8:40 A.M.      **Keynote: Pennsylvania’s Energy Future**  
– Toby Rice, President & CEO, EQT
- 9:15 A.M.      **Grid Reliability Panel**
  - Moderator: Amy Brinton, Director, Government Affairs, PA Chamber
  - Stephen Bennett, Sr. Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection
  - Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group
  - Sen. Gene Yaw, PA-23, Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee
  - Terry Fitzpatrick, President & CEO, Energy Association of PA
- 10:30 A.M.     **Refreshment Break — Exhibits Open**
- 11:00 A.M.     **Breakout Sessions**  
**Track One: Water Issues — PFAS**
  - Justin Ladner, President, PA American Water
  - Matthew Wood, Sr. Counsel, Babst Calland**Track Two: Air Issues — Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
  - Wendy Merz, Director of Sustainability Services, Trinity Consultants
- 12:00 P.M.     **Lunch — Exhibits Open**
- 1:15 P.M.      **Permitting Modernization panel discussion: Experts discuss the new Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Economic Development (SPEED) program**
  - Moderator: Andrew Bockis, Partner and Environmental Practice Co-Chair, Saul Ewing
  - David Raphael, Partner, Environmental, Land, and Natural Resources Practice, K&L Gates
  - Clayton Bubeck, President & CEO, Rettew
  - Ramez Ziadeh, Acting Executive Deputy Secretary, DEP
- 2:30 P.M.      **Conclude**

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



## **Luke Bernstein, President and CEO, PA Chamber of Business and Industry**

A seasoned financial, government, and public policy professional, Luke came to the organization in 2022 with more than 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors.

Before leading the PA Chamber, Luke was most recently executive vice president, chief operations and technology officer at Orrstown Financial Services. He had served as Orrstown's corporate spokesperson since 2017.

He was previously senior vice president of external affairs at the Pennsylvania Bankers Association from 2015 to 2017 and deputy chief of staff for former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett from 2011 to 2015.

In addition to his executive leadership roles in the private sector and state government, Luke has experience working at the federal level, as a former appointed advisor in the Administration of President George W. Bush and as an aide in the U.S. Senate. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and policy studies from Dickinson College, where he also served as an adjunct professor.

Luke also completed the Duke Leadership Program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a very active member of his community, serving on numerous boards and as a youth sports coach.



## **Toby Rice, President & CEO, EQT**

Toby Z. Rice is President and Chief Executive Officer of EQT, the largest natural gas producer in the United States. As an influencer and champion for the energy industry, Mr. Rice has been a strong proponent of unleashing American energy to provide energy security and independence here in the United States and to our allies worldwide, while also achieving our ambitious climate goals.

Mr. Rice was named President and Chief Executive Officer of EQT in July 2019. Since then, EQT has reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 35 percent and achieved one of the lowest methane intensities of any natural gas producer globally. In addition, EQT has set the industry's most aggressive net-zero goal, pledging to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions in its Production segment operations by or before 2025. Mr. Rice has also led EQT to achieve 50 percent female representation on its Board of Directors.

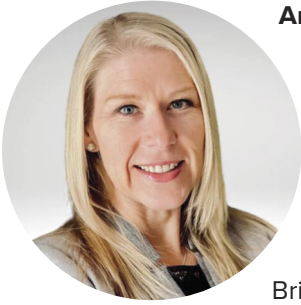
Since May 2018, Mr. Rice has also served as a Partner at Rice Investment Group, a multi-strategy fund investing in all verticals of the oil and gas sector, including the largest renewable natural gas company.

Prior to being appointed EQT CEO, Mr. Rice served as President, Chief Operating Officer, and member of the Board of Directors of Rice Energy. He also held various positions with Rice Energy, its affiliates, and predecessor entities.

He has spoken at a variety of energy conferences and seminars, including CERA Week, Financial Times: Energy Source Live, Shale Insight, and DUG East. He has also served as an energy industry analyst appearing on CNN, CNBC, Bloomberg TV, Fox Business, and Fox News. He graduated from Rollins College in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry.

Mr. Rice serves on the Bipartisan Policy Center's American Energy Innovation Council board. He is also an American Exploration and Production Council's Executive Committee member.

Additionally, Mr. Rice serves on the board of the EQT Foundation, which is committed to supporting the education and training of children and adults, the development of diverse, livable communities, and the preservation of our natural environments.



**Amy Brinton, Director, Government Affairs, PA Chamber of Business and Industry**

An experienced and widely respected government affairs and policy leader, Brinton will oversee the PA Chamber's advocacy in several key policy and regulatory areas, including energy and environmental issues.

Brinton brings a wealth of experience to the PA Chamber. As the government affairs manager for Duquesne Light, she coordinated and executed legislative strategy at the state and local levels.

Brinton also played a key role in drafting and advancing energy and utility-related legislation through the legislature, including renewable energy and Pennsylvania Broadband Authority proposals.

She previously served as executive director of the Pennsylvania House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and as a research analyst for the House Democratic Policy Committee and House Local Government Committee.

"Amy brings with her a deep understanding of the legislative process in Pennsylvania and a proven track record of success in government affairs," said PA Chamber President and CEO Luke Bernstein. "Her expertise and leadership will be invaluable to our members as we continue to advocate for policies that enhance Pennsylvania's business environment and economic competitiveness."

Brinton advocated on behalf of Duquesne Light and the broader energy sector before lawmakers, serving as the primary representative for a PA Chamber member company that provides electric distribution services to hundreds and thousands of residential and business customers in western Pennsylvania. She was named in City & State's 2023 and 2024 Who's Who in Government Relations, previously served on her local township and county planning commissions, respectively, and most recently served as an elected school board director.

"I am thrilled to be joining the PA Chamber and eager to get to work on improving our state's business climate," said Brinton. "Pennsylvania has so much to offer, and I am excited to leverage my experience as part of such a great team working to make our state a better place to do business."



**Stephen Bennett, Sr. Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection**

Mr. Bennett is the PJM liaison for Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania. In this role, he interacts with state utility commissions, executive agencies and legislators on energy policy in the areas of RTO grid reliability, transmission planning, operations and wholesale markets. Prior to joining PJM, Mr. Bennett was the Managing Director at Energy Advocacy, LLC, a boutique consultancy focused on regulatory policy in the retail and wholesale energy markets. Mr. Bennett also held management roles in government affairs for both PPL EnergyPlus and Exelon. Mr. Bennett has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park.

PJM Interconnection, founded in 1927, ensures the reliability of the high-voltage electric power system serving 65 million people in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. PJM coordinates and directs the operation of the region's transmission grid, which includes over 82,000 miles of transmission lines; administers a competitive wholesale electricity market; and plans regional transmission expansion improvements to maintain grid reliability and relieve congestion. PJM's regional grid and market operations produce annual savings of \$2.8 billion to \$3.1 billion. For the latest news about PJM, visit PJM Inside Lines at [insidelines.pjm.com](https://insidelines.pjm.com).



**Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group**

Glen Thomas is the former chairman of the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC), where he oversaw the restructuring of Pennsylvania's electricity, natural gas, and local telephone markets. Before his appointment to the PUC, Mr. Thomas served as deputy director of Governor Ridge's Policy Office, where he advised the governor on energy and environmental issues. In addition, Mr. Thomas was appointed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve on the governor's transition team for energy related issues in 2003. Mr. Thomas is also a former partner at the law firm of Blank Rome. Mr. Thomas currently serves as President of the PJM Power Providers Group, a non-profit organization dedicated to properly designed and well-functioning markets in the PJM region.

Mr. Thomas has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners; chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Washington Action Committee; and a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board, the National Regulatory Research Institute's Board of Directors, the Keystone Center Energy Board, the Organization of MISO States Board of Directors, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on International Relations, Telecommunications and Critical Infrastructure.

Mr. Thomas received his J.D. from Dickinson School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in philosophy/religion and political science from Colgate University. He attended the Governors Center of the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University. He was one of the 60 civilians chosen by the Secretary of Defense to participate in the U.S. Department of Defense Joint Civilian Orientation Conference.

Mr. Thomas has been honored by the Philadelphia Business Journal and the Central Pennsylvania Business Journal as recipient of the "40 Under 40" Award. He is also a member of the Wilson High School Academic Hall of Fame.



**Sen. Gene Yaw, PA-23, Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee**

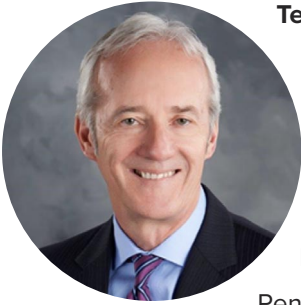
Prior to running for the Senate, Yaw served as Lycoming County solicitor for 17 years and was named County Solicitor of the Year in 2004. He has also served as general counsel to the Pennsylvania College of Technology for more than 20 years. In 2013, he was elected Chairman of the Pennsylvania College of Technology Board of Directors. Senator Yaw serves as Chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

He is also Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Banking & Insurance, Community, Economic & Recreational Development, Rules & Executive Nominations and the Majority Policy Committees.

Senator Yaw serves on a number of Boards and Commissions including as Chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a member of the Environmental Quality Board, a member of the Pennsylvania Aggregate Advisory Board, a member of the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority and a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control And Conservation Committee.

Senator Yaw is a member of the Lycoming Law Association and Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Association for Justice, and a former member of the Board of Directors of Susquehanna Legal Services. He serves as "Of Counsel" with the McCormick Law Firm in Williamsport, a prominent firm which has been in continuous existence for 150 years. A U.S. Army veteran, Yaw enlisted and went on to graduate from the United States Artillery and Missile Officer Candidate School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He served an overseas tour of duty as an artillery officer and was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant. Senator Yaw has coached Little League Baseball, and coached and refereed for the American Youth Soccer Organization. He is a member of the National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited, the Nittany Lion Club, and the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce. He received the 2010 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Susquehanna Council, Boy Scouts of America, the 2011 Lycoming College Alumni of the Year Award, the 2011 CAPP Community Partner Award, the Central Pennsylvania State of Israel Bonds 2012 Israel Unity Award, the 2013 Pennsylvania Winery Association Industry Supporter Award, the 2014 Pennsylvania College of Technology Centennial Leadership Award, the 2015 Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health Legislator of the Year Award and the 2019 Pennsylvania Water Environment Association Public Official of the Year Award.





**Terry Fitzpatrick, President & CEO, Energy Association of PA**

Terrance J. Fitzpatrick is President and CEO of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, which represents the interests of electric and natural gas utilities in the Commonwealth. From 1999 to 2007, he was a Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, serving as Chairman from 2003 to 2004. From 1995 to 1997, he served as Counsel to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in the Senate of Pennsylvania, and helped to draft Pennsylvania's electricity competition law. During his career, he has also served as an administrative law judge with the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board and as legal counsel with the PUC, with the Insurance Department, with two private law firms, and with the Electric Power Generation Association. He has authored articles on administrative law and energy topics, and a white paper on improving infrastructure in Pennsylvania.



**Justin Ladner, President, PA American Water**

Justin Ladner is president of Pennsylvania American Water, the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and wastewater services to approximately 2.3 million people. In this role, he reinforces and strengthens customer, regulatory and local government relationships, drives the company's operational and financial results, and leads the company in providing safe, clean, affordable and reliable water services to help keep customers' lives flowing.

Prior to this role, Ladner served as president of Illinois American Water from 2020 to 2022, where he led the company's Illinois subsidiary serving approximately 1.3 million people. Ladner joined American Water in 2018 as director of National Regulatory Affairs. In this national role, he was responsible for developing and implementing strategies, practices, and processes related to national regulatory affairs and positioning the company as an industry leader with utility commissioners across the nation.

Before joining American Water, Ladner served in multiple roles at Southern Co., including attorney for Southern Nuclear and governmental affairs and policy manager, project manager for the Integration Management Office, and assistant to the executive vice president of Nuclear Development at Southern Power. Prior to joining Southern Co., Ladner was an associate attorney for Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart in Birmingham, Ala. He also worked for U.S. Steel as a metallurgical engineer.

Ladner currently serves on the boards of directors for the American Water Charitable Foundation, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, and Pittsburgh Works Together. In 2023, he was recognized as one of Pennsylvania Business Central's Top 100 People and named to the Pittsburgh Power 100 by City & State Magazine. He is a member of the 2024 Class of Henry Crown Fellows within the Aspen Global Leadership Network at the Aspen Institute.

Ladner received his law degree, cum laude, from the University of Alabama School of Law, as well as a master's and a bachelor's degree in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering with honors from the University of Alabama. He is married and has two daughters.



**Matthew Wood, Sr. Counsel, Babst Calland**

Matt Wood is senior counsel in Babst Calland's Environmental Group. He assists clients on a variety of environmentally-related legal matters arising under major federal and state environmental and regulatory programs, with a focus on issues involving government inquiries, environmental investigations, remediation and concomitant activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and their state analogs. In connection with this experience, he has advised clients during all stages of multi-year environmental remediation projects under consent decrees and administrative orders at sites across the U.S.

Mr. Wood counsels clients in the manufacturing, chemical, metals, and other sectors on permitting matters, compliance, enforcement actions, and government investigations and provides support on issue assessment, risk management, and strategy implementation to ensure effective client operations. His work often involves coordinating with technical consultants to prepare reports, position papers, and other deliverables for clients, agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. He also has experience with state and federal agency information requests and conducts environmental due diligence in transactional matters.

Mr. Wood obtained a B.A. in Communications Studies from Brigham Young University in 2005. He is a 2011 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, earning a J.D. and M.B.A., respectively. As a student, he was a finalist in Pitt Law's Murray S. Love Mock Trial Competition and a member of one of two teams that represented Pitt Law at the prestigious Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition Regional Round held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Wood served as a Certified Legal Intern for Pitt Law's Elder Law Clinic where he counseled low income clients on legal matters related to guardianships and other family law issues and also spent a summer as a Judicial Extern for the Honorable G. Murray Snow of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

Prior to joining Babst Calland, Mr. Wood worked as an associate attorney for a law firm in Phoenix, Arizona, where he gained experience working on a variety of environmental matters at the county, state, federal, and tribal levels.



**Wendy Merz, Director of Sustainability Services, Trinity Consultants**

Wendy Merz is the Director of Sustainability Services at Trinity Consultants and a Principal Consultant with more than 24 years of environmental consulting experience. Over the years, she has supported clients representing a wide variety of industries with environmental regulatory compliance, air quality permitting and sustainability initiatives. In her current role, she coordinates Trinity's service offerings in environmental sustainability, where she leverages her regulatory compliance background to support industrial clients with addressing today's challenges associated with the transition to a low carbon economy. This support includes the development of corporate GHG inventories (Scope 1, 2 and 3), product life cycle assessments (LCAs) and environmental product declarations (EPDs), product carbon footprints (PCFs), climate change impact assessments for NEPA submittals, GHG reduction strategies and target-setting. She manages Trinity's strategic technical support to several industry groups including the [Global Steel Climate Council \(GSCC\)](#) and [ONE Future](#). Ms. Merz was a [2023 recipient of the National Association of EHS&S Management \(NAEM\) 30 Over 30 Award](#) which recognizes professionals who are making a positive impact in sustainability. Ms. Merz teaches Trinity's "[Climate Reporting Fundamentals](#)" course. She graduated from Lehigh University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and from University of Cincinnati with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering.



**Andrew Bockis, Partner and Environmental Practice Co-Chair, Saul Ewing**

Andrew Bockis helps clients obtain and defend environmental permits for their projects. Industrial projects are subject to ever-changing rules and increased agency review time. Whether related to industrial warehouses or oil and gas facilities or renewable energy projects, many business leaders are frustrated with the uncertainty created by complex environmental regulation. The situation is magnified when there is public opposition to a project. Based on his prior experience as counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Andy helps clients in a variety of industries minimize project delays and secure the permits they need. When projects are challenged, he helps companies defend their interests in court. He has litigated and defended environmental permitting decisions before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Third Circuit, D.C. Circuit, and in response to petitions for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court. Andy also helps clients navigate their interactions with regulatory agencies in order to avoid extra costs and lost time so that they can commence construction and operate with confidence. He is the immediate past Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Environmental and Energy Law Section, and co-editor of Pennsylvania Environmental Law and Practice, published by PBI Press. He is also Chair of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry's Environmental Council. Mr. Bockis is a partner in the Harrisburg office of Saul Ewing LLP and is Co-Chair of the Firm's Environmental Practice.



**David Raphael, Partner, Environmental, Land, and Natural Resources Practice, K&L Gates**

David Raphael is a partner in the environmental, land and natural resources practice of the firm's Harrisburg office. Prior to joining K&L Gates, David served as Chief Counsel of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) where he provided legal counsel to the Secretary and executive staff of the DEP. In this role, he oversaw a statewide team who represented the department on a variety of environmental compliance, litigation and transactional matters. His experience as an environmental practitioner – both in the public and private sectors – spans more than 25 years.

David represents clients in environmental litigation matters before the Environmental Hearing Board, various state and federal courts, and administrative boards. He also provides environmental counsel on complex transactions and a wide range of environmental compliance issues, including the implementation of environmental compliance and audit policies. David was selected by *Chambers USA* (2017-2023) as one of Pennsylvania's leading environmental lawyers. He was also recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Environmental Law and Litigation-Environmental (2019-2023).

Prior to entering private practice, David served as Deputy Attorney General with the Environmental Crimes Section of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. As a Deputy Attorney General, David served as the lead trial attorney for complex environmental cases in state trial courts around the Commonwealth, and represented the OAG in appellate matters before state appellate courts. His duties also included review and approval of charging documents, search warrants, and investigative plans. David also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where he was involved in the prosecution of a significant laboratory fraud matter. His career began with the Office of Chief Counsel in the Department of Environmental Protection, serving as Assistant Counsel and Special Assistant Counsel, and representing the Commonwealth in environmental matters before the Environmental Hearing Board, Commonwealth Court, and Superior Court, and negotiating a number of the first redevelopment agreements under Act 2. David served on the Environmental Hearing Board Rules Committee during his tenure as Chief Counsel of DEP.

David received his undergraduate degree in English, with honors, from Lynchburg College, and received his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Dickinson Journal of Environmental Law & Policy. He also served as member of the Dickinson's mock trial team, which won a regional championship in New York City and competed in the national finals. David has served as a visiting judge to Dickinson's Trial Advocacy and Appellate Advocacy programs and is currently serving as a litigation skills instructor at the law school.



**Clayton Bubeck, President & CEO, RETTEW**

Clayton joined RETTEW in 2000 as an environmental engineer and since then he has held many leadership positions, eventually advancing to President in 2019 and taking on the additional role of CEO in 2022. He is a Professional Engineer licensed in 28 states and is extremely knowledgeable about our business and the AEC industry as a whole. Clayton's team-oriented leadership style and his proven track record of business development has helped evolve RETTEW from a mid-Atlantic firm to one now developing and delivering services throughout the United States. His expertise drives the company's aggressive growth strategies in our focus markets. Clayton is always at the forefront of relevant market trends and is a leader in strategic discussions with both in-house staff and with key clients and partners. Clayton is a graduate of the American Council of Engineering Companies' Senior Executive Institute and received a certificate from the Wharton School of Executive Education.



**Ramez Ziadeh, P.E. Acting Executive Deputy Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection**

Ramez started his career with DEP in January of 1994 in the Southwest Regional Office as a Civil Engineer in the Soils and Waterways Section of the Water Management Program. Since then, he served as the Permitting and Technical Services Chief in the Watershed Management Program in the Southcentral Region, Chief of the Project Inspection Division in the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Director of the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Executive Deputy Secretary of Programs and Acting Secretary during the last 7 months of Governor Wolf's term. Ramez is a licensed professional engineer in the States of Pennsylvania and California. He received his B.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1993.