

Leveraging Community Benefits Frameworks: Empowering Communities to Benefit from Federally Funded Energy Projects

Workshop Speaker Biographies

Amanda Woodrum, ReImagine Appalachia

Amanda Woodrum is the Co-Director of ReImagine Appalachia, a four-state coalition of diverse stakeholder groups working together to find common ground and create a 21st century sustainable, equitable Appalachia and maximize the benefits to the region's communities from the federal climate infrastructure package. She has a master's degree in economics and law degree from the University of Akron in Ohio. Over the past 15 years or so, she has conducted research, advocacy and coalition building at the intersection of climate, energy, health, labor, and anti-poverty policy. After living in New York City and experiencing 9/11, she returned to Ohio determined to make the state and the region the kind of place she wanted to live.

Ann Rogan, Edge Collaborative

Ann Rogan's work over the last two decades has centered on reimagining the role of economic development and climate opportunities in emerging markets - whether that's in rural India or inland California. She currently leads Edge Collaborative - a civic incubator whose mission is to invest into community ventures that build a more participatory, inclusive economy. There, she oversees a diverse portfolio across workforce, climate, and community wealth. Most recently, she served as a senior advisor in local government in Stockton, CA with FUSE Corps. During her 3 years at City Hall, she led a small team that built new capabilities inside the city and community - setting Stockton, CA on a course to marshal \$60M+ in public sector investments focused on climate. For the past several years, Ann's work on community benefits and climate has centered on the accessibility of electric vehicles within low-income communities, and a wide range of carbon management considerations in the northern Central Valley of California. She's held a variety of roles across the nonprofit, private and public sectors - previously, having co-founded two companies - in renewables and 3D printing. In 2016, she served on the Government of Estonia's e-Residency Advisory Group to advance digital entrepreneurship. Ann earned a BA from McGill University in International Development and English Literature.

Annie Contractor, Rural Organizing Education Fund

Annie Contractor is the Policy Director at Rural Organizing Education Fund. Annie's expertise focuses

on bringing people into all levels of government decision-making. Her policy work includes establishing a wrap-around services support unit in Colorado's COVID-19 response through the public health infrastructure of the state, tactics for welcoming immigrants in a sanctuary city, and more recently, getting the Recompete Pilot Program passed and implemented with rural inclusion. With Rural Organizing, Annie is bridging the gap between community organizing and community development by resourcing rural civic leaders with tools, strategies, coaching, connection to experts, and a peer network to support inclusive community engagement and powerful civic participation. Annie grew up in rural Wyoming, served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia, hand-built a log cabin in Appalachia, farmed lettuce in Hawai'i, and amplified activists in Brazil. As a regional planner and social scientist, Annie has designed and led four social justice research projects on three continents that have impacted food security, environmental justice, housing justice, and low-income mothers' access to quality jobs. Annie enjoys running slowly and playing the same three songs on the guitar.

Bonnie Ram, Ram Consultancy

Bonnie Ram is an independent consultant and Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Center for Research in Wind (CREW), University of Delaware. Her current focus is on the potential for coastal community benefit agreements with offshore wind projects and designing knowledge exchanges with local citizens and students in the Mid-Atlantic region. Her research focuses on the clean energy transition, regulatory compliance, public perception of environmental risks, benefits and uncertainties, and strategies for robust engagement. Bonnie has worked with a variety of organizations across Europe, Southeast Asia, and Southern Africa. Serving as a corporate officer at two national consulting firms for twenty years, she worked on a variety of projects from nuclear waste management to engagement strategies for wind programs. For ten years, Ram was a strategic advisor to the DOE's Wind Technology Office and NREL and co-authored several national reports, including *20% Wind Energy by 2030*. Bonnie was a Senior Researcher to the Danish Technical University (Wind) and successfully created a new social science department. Bonnie publishes in peer reviewed journals, most recently a Special Issue in *Risk Analysis*. Also, she is an author of the environmental and stakeholder chapter of *Wind Engineering Explained Theory, Design and Application* (Third Edition).

Elizabeth Kocs, GTI Energy

As Senior Manager at GTI Energy's Low Carbon Energy Solutions, Dr. Elizabeth Kocs manages key initiatives to support community benefits and impacts of integrated energy networks and the broader hydrogen and low carbon energy ecosystem. She serves as the subject matter expert overseeing the development of environmental, energy and climate justice including development of metrics to measure Justice 40. Elizabeth has 30 years of experience developing and managing environmental projects and

leading stakeholder engagement and community participation for applied research, planning, and policy initiatives locally, regionally, and globally. Prior to her current role, Elizabeth served as Director of Partnerships and Strategy at UIC Energy Initiative, where she led strategic energy, sustainability, transportation electrification, and environmental and climate justice programs. She has received the Chicago Area Clean Cities (CACC) Community Leadership Award for her work in transportation electrification, and the COP26 Climate Challenge Cup for the climate justice research project.

Elizabeth Perera, Department of Energy's Loan Program Office

Elizabeth “Liz” Martin Perera serves the Department of Energy Loan Programs Office, as a Senior Advisor with the Community, Jobs and Justice Team. In this role, Liz works with loan applicant companies to develop Community Benefit Plans (CBPs) for clean energy projects. These CBPs detail a project's community and labor engagement, quality jobs, potential J40 benefits and how the project will advance equity. Before coming to the Department of Energy, Liz served as Climate Policy Director with the National Sierra Club in Washington, DC. There she led the Club's efforts to pass the most transformational climate and infrastructure law in US history, the Inflation Reduction Act, and she worked on climate, environmental and energy policy at the federal and state level. She also has expertise on resilience/adaptation issues and environmental, labor and economic justice issues. Liz has also held climate policy leadership positions with the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and worked for ICF Consulting where she supported the US Environmental Protection Agency and the UN Environment Program. With UCS she authored a report series called *Climate Change and Your Health* documenting increases in heat waves, ozone pollution, and storm intensity in warming world. She holds a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment and a Masters of Public Health from the University of New York's School of Public Health.

Hadia Sheerazi, Rocky Mountain Institute

Hadia Sheerazi is a Manager in RMI's Climate-Aligned Industries Program, co-leading community engagement and equity-centered workstreams to accelerate the decarbonization of the highest emitting industrial sectors, with a focus on clean hydrogen hubs, CDR, shipping, steel, aluminum and waste-methane. She conducts capacity-building workshops for cleantech project developers, state and federal policymakers, and regulators, and leads thought leadership on best practices for inclusive, two-way engagement to derisk projects and provides guidance on the design and implementation of responsive community benefit plans (CBPs) to remediate the impacts of historic underinvestment, environmental injustice, and decades of legacy pollution in low-income, BIPOC, frontline and fencline communities. Hadia is a contributing author on the NYC Panel on Climate Change (NPCC), which helps inform the

city's multi-hazard adaptation and resilience strategy to protect vulnerable and low-income communities. She has cross-sectoral experience in climate, energy policy and sustainability in the public, private, NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and academic sectors. Hadia has been internationally recognized for her research and contributions to climate action, equity, sustainability, women's empowerment, and inclusive adaptation by the UN Development Programme, UN Women's Empower Women initiative, the White House Council on Women and Girls, Hydrogen Economist, and the Financial Times.

Jackson Rose, Montana State University

Jackson Rose is a faculty member at Montana State University, where he also co-leads the Geospatial Core Facility. A resource geographer by training, Jackson's scholarly research looks at rural communities that host large-scale underground mining projects, with a focus on non-regulatory agreements between community organizations and international mining companies. Prior to transitioning to Montana State University, Jackson worked for two years in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, where he served as Executive Director of the Meagher County Stewardship Council, a grassroots group negotiating a community benefits agreement around an impending copper mine. Jackson currently sits on the Council's Board of Directors as the group works to finalize a CBA.

James Strange, Department of Energy's Office of Energy Justice and Policy

James Strange specializes in energy law and policy and has worked across state lines with public and private entities to build capacity for equitable access to clean energy for over a decade. Before arriving at the U.S. Department of Energy, James was general counsel for a non-profit organization that oversees the nation's largest solar, storage, and transportation electrification programs. James is currently serving as a Senior Policy Advisor for the United States Department of Energy, Office of Energy Justice and Equity, and is Director of the DOE committee tasked with the implementation of community benefits plans across DOE funding and programs.

Jane Fleming Kleeb, Bold Alliance

Jane Fleming Kleeb is an experienced grassroots organizer, author, manager, political strategist, and nonprofit entrepreneur. In her work, Jane protects property rights while building an engaged base of citizens who care about the land and water. For her years of work in rural communities, Jane was named a Climate Breakthrough awardee in 2023, the highest honor in the climate change field. Jane is setting out to create a new project called Energy Builders that works with rural communities to change the economic model of large-scale clean energy projects to benefit the people who live on the land that is creating America's next 100 years of energy. In 2010, she founded Bold Nebraska, which later became the Bold Alliance, a network of "small but mighty" coalitions in rural states working to protect the land

and water with a focus on land justice and energy freedom with projects from the Pipeline Fighters Hub to the Easement Action Teams. Bringing urban and rural folks together through meaningful and creative actions has been Jane's goal throughout her career. She was a driving force behind Reject and Protect, where 12 tipis were placed on DC's National Mall and where the Cowboy and Indian Alliance rode horses through the streets of DC. The Ponca Corn Harvest that not only helped stop the Keystone XL pipeline but brought some land justice to the Ponca people. Jane also hosted Nebraska's largest advocacy concert, Harvest the Hope, with Willie Nelson and Neil Young. Since 2016, Jane has served in a volunteer capacity as Chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party. She also serves on the Executive Committees of the Democratic National Committee and the Association of State Democratic Committees.

Jay Mehta, Jobs to Move America

Jay Mehta leads Jobs to Move America's (JMA) Community Benefits Agreement Resource Center (CBARC). He began his work with JMA in December 2019 as the Senior Researcher for New Jersey and most recently served as Northeast Director, overseeing JMA's programs in New York and New Jersey. He has 20 years of domestic and international research, campaign, and election-related experience. Jay previously worked for the UNITE HERE Union, where he was successful in raising standards, organizing opportunities, and developing key community and political stakeholder relationships for hotel, airport and casino workers throughout North America. Following his time with the union, Jay also served as an issue and opposition researcher for the Working Families Party and directly prior to joining JMA, worked as an independent research and creative consultant. Jay received his bachelor's in philosophy and religion from Flagler College ('02) in St. Augustine, Florida and a Masters in Diplomacy, Law and Global Change from Coventry University in England ('03).

Jennifer Hadayia, Air Alliance Houston

Jennifer ("Jen") Hadayia, MPA (pronounced Huh-die-yuh) is the Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston, the longest running advocacy non-profit singularly focused on the public health impacts of air pollution in Houston/Harris County. She has worked for over 25 years in public health and health equity with state and county health departments and non-profit organizations in five states and the District of Columbia. Jen was born and raised in Houston and is a proud resident of Houston's Near Northside, where she lives with her husband and a variety of rescue pets, including a 35-year-old box turtle. Jen holds an MPA from Columbia University and a BA from Yale University.

Jill Capotosto, Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

Jill Capotosto serves as an Energy Justice Liaison in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED). In this role, she supports OCED's efforts related to Justice40

and Community Benefits Plans. Prior to joining the civil service, Jill worked with nonprofits, humanitarian organizations, and academic institutions to advance environmental and social justice domestically and abroad. Jill holds a Master of Environmental Management and a Master of Arts in Global Affairs from Yale University.

John Hall, Houston Advanced Research Center

John Hall is the President and CEO of the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), a nonprofit research hub providing independent analysis on energy, air, water, resilience, and climate equity. HARC's research activities support the implementation of policies and technologies that promote sustainability based on scientific principles, and the organization works to identify and implement scalable solutions to Texas' extensive climate resilience and climate equity challenges. Mr. Hall has been a thought leader and practitioner regarding the impacts of energy on air quality, the environment, communities, and climate for the past thirty years. Prior to joining HARC, he chaired the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), the predecessor agency to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). He left a lasting mark on TCEQ by implementing the Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program. He also held leadership roles at the Environmental Defense Fund, focusing on clean energy efforts in ten of the largest states in the U.S. and vehicle electrification initiatives in Texas.

Julian Gross, Law Office of Julian Gross

Julian Gross is one of the nation's principal experts on community benefits in land use development and public infrastructure. For over 25 years, Mr. Gross has represented public entities and nonprofit advocates in contract negotiations, legislative and administrative drafting, and policy development aimed at improving land use development and public infrastructure, and advancing racial and economic equity. He has negotiated dozens of community benefits agreements (CBAs), initiating and refining a groundbreaking contractual approach to resolution of challenging urban development issues. He has taught, published, and spoken widely on the subject of land use and community benefits, with a focus on public and private negotiation strategies. Mr. Gross has also drafted numerous local hiring and contracting policies, and has worked on living wage policies, disadvantaged-business policies, and many other community economic development initiatives. He represents public entities and nonprofit affordable housing developers in negotiation of project labor agreements and community workforce agreements that advance multiple policy goals.

Kate Gordon, University of California – Berkeley Haas School of Business

Kate Gordon has spent the past two decades working at the intersection of climate change, energy policy, and equitable economic development. Most recently, Gordon served as Senior Advisor to U.S.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, where she led a variety of place-based initiatives to help drive a more sustainable and resilient energy transition, including creating the agency's "Community Benefits Plan" requirement for funding applicants. Gordon continues to serve on the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board (SEAB). Prior to her time in the Biden-Harris administration, Gordon served for several years in California state government as the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and Senior Climate Policy Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom. In this role, Gordon launched or led several initiatives to better integrate climate and economic development strategy across the state. Before entering public service, Gordon served in senior leadership positions at several nonpartisan think tanks including the Henry M. Paulson Institute, the Center for the Next Generation, the Center for American Progress, and the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. Gordon got her start on energy and climate issues working at the national Apollo Alliance, where she ultimately served as co-Executive Director until the merger with the Blue-Green Alliance in 2011. Gordon earned a J.D. and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California-Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University.

Kate Ringness, Department of Energy's Office of Energy Jobs

Kate Ringness, Chief Strategist in the Office of Policy at the Department of Energy, works on Secretarial priorities and other Department-wide issues, including developing a clean energy workforce industrial strategy, creating, and supporting quality jobs in clean energy, and implementing community benefit plans through the Department's financial awards. Prior to joining the Department of Energy, Kate's experience in policy, law, and finance informed her work designing multifaceted energy efficiency and clean energy solutions for communities of all sizes and demographics. She also has worked extensively developing state-based roadmaps for economic development in clean energy industries. Kate earned J.D. and LL.M. degrees from Duke University and an MPP from UC Berkeley.

Kimberly Medford, Entek

Kimberly Medford joined ENTEK in 2012 as ENTEK's VP & General Counsel. During her tenure, she has led the company's legal, HR and EH&S departments. She has been part of ENTEK's executive management team since joining the company. In both her role as VP & General Counsel and now as President of ENTEK Manufacturing, she is deeply engaged in ENTEK's growth through mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, financing, and development of new production facilities. Kim is directly involved with community development and major customer and supplier relationships across the ENTEK family of companies. Recently, she has served on the outreach team responsible for gaining federal and state support for ENTEK's new lithium plant. Prior to joining ENTEK, she represented the company as outside counsel where her practice focused on M&A and finance work with an emphasis in

representing Native American businesses. Kim is a native Oregonian and chose to stay in Oregon for her education, graduating from Willamette University and Willamette University College of Law.

Madeline Schomburg, Energy Futures Initiative

Dr. Madeline Schomburg's research focuses on energy justice, examining access and inclusion in policy processes, and decision-making. Recently, she has focused on the use of community benefits plans as a mechanism to facilitate community engagement in clean energy project development. Her latest project examined community perspectives on the community engagement practices employed in the Department of Energy's hydrogen hub program. Her scholarship has appeared in Energy Research & Social Science and Economics of Energy & Environmental Policy. As an assistant professor of environmental policy at Colorado State University, Schomburg collaborated with scholars from numerous institutions and with community partners to advance social science research in energy and the environment. At Colorado State University, she also served on the steering committee of the Center for Environmental Justice where she helped create new programs in environmental justice and built partnerships with grassroots environmental justice organizations. Schomburg completed her doctorate in ecology at the University of California, Davis, and her Bachelor of Arts in economics and environmental studies at Connecticut College.

Mark Haggerty, Center for American Progress

Mark Haggerty is a senior fellow on the Energy and Environment team at American Progress. With a reputation as a nonpartisan expert committed to practical solutions, Haggerty is engaged in efforts to develop a comprehensive national policy that aligns climate, energy, and public lands conservation goals with rural communities' economic success. He has served on local boards and planning commissions, provided expert advice to state legislatures, and testified to Congress at the invitation of both Democrats and Republicans. Mark lives in Bozeman, Montana, where he co-owns millions of acres of public lands and waters with his family and friends.

Matthew Tejada, Natural Resources Defense Council

Matthew S. Tejada is Senior Vice President for Environmental Health at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a position he assumed in December 2023. As SVP for Environmental Health, Matthew leads NRDC's environmental health portfolio and programs that focus on air, water, toxics, and climate adaptation, amongst other issues. Under Matthew's leadership, the Environmental Health program centers NRDC's mission and work to ensure coordination and collaboration across the organization's activities to consistently focus and achieve meaningful progress on improving environmental health across the United States and internationally with a priority on advancing protection for those most overburdened and vulnerable to an unhealthy environment and the impacts of a changing

climate. Prior to joining NRDC, Matthew served as the first ever Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) for Environmental Justice within EPA's national program office for Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR). Matthew joined EPA in March of 2013 as a career senior executive and director of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), a position he held until the reorganization of OEJ into OEJECR in September of 2022. As DAA, Matthew provided leadership for EPA's EJ portfolio, including the integration of EJ throughout all of EPA's policies, programs, and activities, coordination, and alignment of EJ priorities with external civil rights compliance priorities. Matthew's portfolio also included leading EJ efforts with other federal agencies, states, Tribes, local governments, and other stakeholders such as academia and private sector institutions. Before his career at EPA, Matthew spent over five years as executive director of the environmental justice advocacy Air Alliance Houston in the Houston and Texas Gulf Coast area. Matthew received his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Oxford where he was a member of St. Antony's College and a BA in English from the University of Texas at Austin, then served two years in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria.

Meagan Niebler, Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services

Meagan Niebler, MPH (she/her) works as the Community Democracy Program Manager with Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services and is passionate about being a resource for environmental justice communities to find levers they can pull to move their vision into action. For the past two years, Meagan has been supporting EJ communities in OH, PA, and WV during community benefits processes, including: facilitating community engagement and community education, providing technical assistance to coalitions, and creating tools and templates in support of proactive and reactive Community Benefit Coalitions, Community Benefit Agreements, Community Benefit Ordinances, and Community Benefit Plans. The work of changing the shape of the decision-making table is something that has motivated her throughout her career, including previous work as a birth Doula supporting pregnant and parenting teens and Latinx families; developing, implementing, and evaluating family sexuality education programs, including the evidence-based Linking Families and Teens (LiFT); and directing strength-based public health education and programs.

Meghan Wilson, Michigan State University

Meghan Wilson, an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University and a Detroit native, is an advocate for energy and environmental justice, within communities grappling with financial crisis. Drawing from her experiences in navigating financial restructuring within institutions such as the City of Detroit and Detroit Public Schools, Meghan emerges as a catalyst for change, seamlessly integrating economic development with environmental and energy equity. Her collaborations extend beyond conventional boundaries, including partnerships with utilities to develop community benefits programs, ensuring that marginalized communities have a voice in shaping their energy future. With a Ph.D. in Political Science

from Brown University, Meghan's expertise spans public finance, urban development, race and ethnic politics, and state and local government. Through her scholarship and advocacy, she continues to inspire meaningful change, driving forward the imperative for energy justice and environmental equity in every facet of society.

Nancy Schlep, Sandfire Resources America

Nancy Schlep is the VP Communications & Government Relations and a Corporate Officer of Sandfire Resources America, a publicly traded company. Nancy has 25 plus years of worldwide business experience in corporate affairs, government relations, international trade, communications, public policy, and human resources. Previous positions include the Executive Director of the Montana Taxpayers Association and National Affairs Director for the Montana Farm Bureau Federation. Nancy is certified as a gracious space facilitator for working on critical issues effectively from the Center for Ethical Leadership in Seattle and is an alumna of Leadership Montana. Currently, Nancy is Chair of the Montana Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, serves on the Executive Boards for the Montana Chamber of Commerce and the Montana Taxpayers Association, and sits on the boards of the Montana Mining Association, REAL Montana, the Montana Non-Profit Association, and the Meagher County Community Foundation. Nancy has also served as a Meagher County Commissioner, was on the steering committee creating Women Leading Montana, and in March 2024 Co-Chaired the MT Chamber's Inaugural, "Blazing Trails: Montana Women in Business Summit," in Bozeman, MT. Nancy grew up in Ringling, Montana where her and her husband own and operate the family cattle ranch with their 3 children Sarah (26), Ethan (21) and Dawson (17). Their most recent endeavor is purchasing the iconic Ringling Church with some friends which they have restored to an event and wedding venue. Nancy holds a Bachelor of Science from Montana State University.

Oleta Fitzgerald, Children's Defense Fund

Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald has devoted her life to the pursuit of justice and equality. As Director of the Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office, Oleta has placed special emphasis on education, including early childhood education, children's healthcare access, and breaking the insidious cradle to prison pipeline pattern, which is all too prevalent in communities of color. Oleta is the Regional Administrator for the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic & Social Justice (SRBWI). SRBWI operates in 77 counties across the Black Belts of Alabama, Southwest Georgia and the Mississippi Delta with a network of over 2,500 Black women and young women. She is also the principal for an innovative project, the Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) Initiative, which has operated in more than 12 Mississippi school districts. Oleta's distinguished public service career began long before she assumed her position at Children's Defense Fund. In 1993, Oleta

became President Clinton's appointee as White House Liaison and Executive Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. Later, she was named the Department's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs where, among other things, she worked on tribal governmental issues and coordinated the Administration's long-term recovery of Midwestern states affected by The Great Flood of 1993. Ms. Fitzgerald serves on the boards of the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative For Economic and Social Justice, and NEA Foundation; advisory boards for the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University, Southern Black Farmer Community Led Fund, Excel by 5, and is a member of the International Women's Forum. Ms. Fitzgerald received the Bachelor of Science degree from Tougaloo College, Master of Arts in Rural Development from Antioch University (Midwest) with additional studies at the University of California at Davis; and honorary membership to Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration from Mississippi State University. She contributed to the Covenant with Black America introduced by Tavis Smiley, and numerous news stories by the New York Times, Huffington Post, the BBC, The Guardian, National Public Radio, Commercial Appeal and NBC National and local affiliates as well as other broadcast and print media.

Rebekah Gorbea, Tennessee For All

Rebekah Gorbea is the Statewide Coordinator For Tennessee For All. Tennessee For All is a statewide coalition representing 20 partner organizations and thousands of members across the state from labor unions, faith organizations and community organizations. There is a wave of new energy industries coming to the South including Ford's Blue Oval City Project, an electric vehicle plant in West Tennessee. Tennessee For All alongside local residents are organizing from the bottom up to win a Community Benefits Agreement with Ford that covers affordable housing, environmental protections, and workforce development. The current task at hand is to win a CBA but the strategy is to build a base of organized membership across rural Tennessee to win gains in good union jobs, strong public schools and making sure that our state is working for all of us not just the wealthy few.

Romany Webb, Columbia Law School

Romany Webb is Deputy Director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Romany also holds appointments as a Research Scholar at Columbia Law School, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Climate at the Columbia Climate School, and Senior Advisor on Climate Science at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Romany's research focuses on two primary areas: (1) energy and (2) negative emissions technologies. Romany's energy-related research explores how legal and policy tools can be used to minimize the climate impacts of energy development as well the impacts of climate change on energy infrastructure. Romany also researches legal issues associated with the development and deployment of

negative emissions technologies on land and in the ocean. Between 2020 and 2023, Romany served as a vice chair and then co-chair of the Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Ecosystems Committee of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. Romany also served on the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Ocean Carbon Dioxide Removal and Sequestration from 2020 to 2022. In 2024, she was appointed to the Pool of Experts of the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment and invited to be a contributing author of the Third UN World Ocean Assessment. She also serves on a number of other advisory boards, councils, and committees. Romany also completed a fellowship with the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy, Law, and Business at the University of Texas at Austin, where she researched energy policy. Romany received an LL.M., with a certificate of specialization in environmental law, from the University of California, Berkeley in 2013. She also holds an LL.B., awarded with first class honors, from the University of New South Wales (Australia).

Scott Douglas, Greater Birmingham Ministries

Scott Douglas attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he co-founded the University of Tennessee Black Student Union. Following an aircraft assembly job in Nashville, Scott moved to Birmingham in 1976 where he was a reporter for the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice (SOC). From 1984-1989, he served as Executive Director of SOC. From 1989-1992, He was a Program Officer for the Partnership for Democracy Foundation. After serving as an Environmental Justice Grassroots Organizer for the Sierra Club, he became Executive Director of Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM); an interfaith, multi-racial organization providing food and clothing to families while assisting low-income families empower their communities through community organizing. GBM's priorities today include expanding voting rights for people of color in Alabama. He's a former board member of the Equal Justice Initiative and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and currently serves on the boards of the Highlander Research & Education Center and Jobs to Move America. When JMA established their first southern office in Alabama, he joined the negotiating team for establishing a Community Benefits Agreement with New Flyer, Inc., a Canadian based builder of battery-powered buses. GBM joined the Alabama NAACP as community representatives in JMA's broad-based strategy of a united labor and community approach to resisting corporations coming to the South in pursuit of historic "southern discounts" that allowed the short-changing workers while endangering their communities. He's written articles on economic and racial justice for Southern Exposure, Howard Law Journal, the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Dissent Magazine.

Theo Pride, Detroit People's Platform

Theo Pride, Ph.D. is a community organizer with Detroit People's Platform, a social justice organization

committed to building power for majority Black Detroit. His work focuses on equitable development and strategies to build and implement inclusive, collectively owned, solidarity economies in marginalized communities of color. He leads the Detroit Budget Justice Coalition which seeks to win annually a municipal budget that invests in low income, Black neighborhoods and one designed through participatory decision-making by residents. Theo brings his unique experience as a teacher/researcher of Black liberation movements and its impact on revolutionary politics and social change to inform his organizing work.

Todd Malan, Talon Metals

Todd Malan is Chief External Affairs Officer & Head of Climate Strategy at Talon Metals, a publicly traded mineral resource company focused on discovery and development of high-grade nickel deposits in the Lake Superior region of the United States. Malan has responsibility for the company's interaction with governments, tribal sovereign governments, media, investors, off-take partners and communities. Malan leads Talon's climate innovation activities including carbon capture and storage via new approaches to carbon mineralization, reducing operational emissions at sites, clean energy sourcing and customer partnerships. Malan previously led the Corporate Relations team for global mining and metals leader Rio Tinto in the Americas region and globally for the Rio Tinto Aluminum product group. Before joining the mining and metals sector, Malan was a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs. He is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle and studied at Birkbeck College at the University of London as a Hansard Scholar.

Wendolyn Holland, Tribal Clean Energy Alliance

Wendolyn Holland serves as Senior Advisor for Policy, Tax & Government Relations at the Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy. In this role, Holland supports tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Americans in their quest for renewable energy deployment as a means to improve sovereignty and enhance sustainable economic development. She served as Senior Advisor for Commercialization in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, a role that supported the movement of national laboratory technologies into the market. She then served as a member of the senior leadership team at Savannah River National Laboratory. In her consulting, practice, Holland advises at the nexus of finance, technology, and policy, focusing on clean energy technologies. With a particular expertise in tax strategy and policy, her projects focus on the very essence of our social and environmental problems. With the background of a historian, she models her projects for the long-range view to bend the arc of history. She is among the nation's experts on Section 48C, the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit. Beyond 48C, Holland has supported many dozens of submissions for competitive federal funding opportunities, focused mostly but not exclusively on DOE solicitations. In

this process, she has written more than 80 Community Benefits Plans, most of which include strong provisions for neighboring sovereign tribal communities. Holland received her JD and LLM in Taxation from Georgetown Law in 2017, her MBA in Finance and Strategy from Kellogg School of Management in 2001, and her BA in History and Studies in the Environment from Yale in 1991. She is a frequent lecturer on U.S. renewable energy policy and Western Americana.