

Key Environmental Issues in EPA Region 2

June 23-24, 2021

Speaker Biographies

Panel One – Climate and Air Pollution

Michael B. Gerrard (moderator)

Michael B. Gerrard is Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, where he teaches courses on environmental and energy law and founded and directs the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. He is also a member and former Chair of the Faculty of Columbia's Earth Institute. Before joining the Columbia faculty in January 2009, he was partner in charge of the New York office of the Arnold & Porter law firm; he is now Senior Counsel to the firm. He practiced environmental law in New York City full time from 1979 to 2008. His practice involved trying numerous cases and arguing many appeals in federal and state courts and administrative tribunals; handling the environmental aspects of numerous transactions and development projects; and providing regulatory compliance advice to a wide variety of clients in the private and public sectors.

Gerrard was the 2004-2005 chair of the American Bar Association's 10,000-member section of environment, energy, and resources. He also chaired the New York City Bar Association's executive committee and the New York State Bar Association's environmental law section. He has served on the executive committees of the boards of the Environmental Law Institute and the American College of Environmental Lawyers. Several independent rating services ranked Gerrard as the leading environmental lawyer in New York and one of the leading environmental lawyers in the world.

Since 1986, Gerrard has written an environmental law column for the *New York Law Journal*. He is author or editor of thirteen books, two of which were named Best Law Book of the Year by the Association of American Publishers: *Environmental Law Practice Guide* (twelve volumes, 1992) and *Brownfields Law and Practice* (four volumes, 1998). Among his other books are *Global Climate Change and U.S. Law* (with Jody Freeman) (2d ed. 2014); *Law of Clean Energy: Efficiency and Renewables* (2011); *Climate Engineering and the Law: Regulation and Liability for Solar Radiation Management and Carbon Dioxide Removal* (with Tracy Hester 2018); and *Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States* (with John Dernbach, 2019).

He received his B.A. from Columbia University and his J.D. from NYU Law School, where he was a Root Tilden Scholar.

Joseph Siegel

Joe Siegel has been an attorney in Region 2's Office of Regional Counsel, Air Branch, for 35 years. He co-chairs the Region 2 Climate Change Workgroup and runs the Region's Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution program. Joe has also been teaching

courses on climate change and air pollution at Haub School of Law at Pace University for 20 years and on Environmental Dispute Resolution at Hofstra Law School for 7 years. He previously taught environmental law and justice at CUNY School of Law for over 10 years. Joe is a former Chair of both the ABA Section on Environment and Energy Resources' Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Ecosystems Committee and the ADR Committee. His international work outside the office includes serving as Education Chair for the Mediators Beyond Borders International's Climate Change Team, participation in a transboundary climate change initiative called Adaptation Without Borders, as author on the Urban Climate Change Research Network's Third Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities, and is on the Advisory Panel of Better Climate Governance. Joe also co-chairs the Climate Smart Communities Task Force for his Village in New York.

Liliana Villatora

Liliana Villatora is Chief of the Air Branch for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2. She joined Region 2's Office of Regional Counsel New York/Caribbean Superfund branch in 1996, and transferred to the Region's Air branch in 2007. During her tenure in Region 2, Liliana has managed complex, multi-party judicial enforcement matters both under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; as well as administrative enforcement actions arising under the CAA and Clean Water Act; permitting matters related to the Outer Continental Shelf in Region 2, and has served on CAA national regulatory workgroups and national e-discovery workgroups. In her spare time, she is vice president of a software solutions company and negotiates software licensing agreements. Liliana received her B.A. from New York University (1993) and J.D. from Fordham University School of Law (1996)

Jared Snyder

Jared Snyder is Deputy Commissioner for Climate, Air & Energy at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In that capacity, he oversees development and implementation of clean air programs and climate change strategies, including programs to build resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. He represents the Department in multistate climate and air quality initiatives, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Transportation and Climate Initiative, and in statewide energy planning efforts. He is currently Treasurer of RGGI Inc.; he represents New York on the Ozone Transport Commission and The Climate Registry; and he has served as Co-chair of the International Carbon Action Partnership. Prior to joining DEC in 2007, he managed air and climate litigation in the New York Attorney General's office, and he worked for the U.S. Department of Justice handling environmental enforcement matters from 1990-95. Mr. Snyder has a B.A. in economics from Cornell University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Paul Baldauf

Paul Baldauf serves as Assistant Commissioner for Air Quality, Energy and Sustainability (AQES). In this role, Paul is responsible for the management and oversight of two divisions; Air

Quality and Climate, Clean Energy and Radiation Protection. He also serves as New Jersey's state liaison officer to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and is New Jersey's Commissioner to the Atlantic Compact Commission for Low Level Radioactive Waste.

Prior to becoming the Assistant Commissioner for AQES in 2016, Paul served as the Director of the Division of Energy Security and Sustainability since 2015. That Division was responsible for the oversight and operations of the radiation elements of the NJDEP, including nuclear engineering, environmental radiation and x-ray compliance, as well as the Bureau of Energy and Sustainability, which coordinated with the Board of Public Utilities on all environmental aspects of New Jersey's energy portfolio and led the Department's sustainability initiatives. Paul is a career Department employee, joining in 1987 as an engineer in the water quality program, and transitioning into the radiation protection and release prevention element in 2003, where he rose to the level of Director of Environmental Safety and Health in 2010.

Paul holds a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Penn State University, a MS in civil and environmental engineering from Rutgers University, and a MA in homeland security from the US Naval Postgraduate School. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Panel Two: Cross-Cutting Issues

Eric Schaaf (moderator)

Eric Schaaf is the Regional Counsel for Region 2 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and oversees the legal aspects of all EPA programs in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Eric first joined EPA's Office of Regional Counsel as a staff attorney in 1984; he has headed that office, as Regional Counsel, since June 2002. Immediately prior to being appointed Regional Counsel, Eric served for five years as the Deputy Regional Counsel and prior to that, he served for over 10 years as Chief of the New York/Caribbean Superfund Branch.

A graduate of Fordham University School of Law, Eric currently teaches the Climate Change Law and Policy course there as a member of the adjunct faculty and has also taught the introductory Environmental Law course. In addition, he has served as a guest lecturer at various schools, including Columbia Law School, the Environmental Law Center of Vermont Law School, Benjamin Cardozo School of Law and New York Law School. Eric is a member of the New York City Bar Association Environmental Law Committee. Before coming to EPA, Eric was an associate at the law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel in New York where he participated in both general litigation and corporate practice.

Paul Simon

Paul Simon is the Deputy Regional Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 2. In that capacity, he works closely with the Regional Counsel in the management and direction of the Office of Regional Counsel (ORC), an office of approximately 80 lawyers who provide legal support for Region 2's implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, the federal Superfund law, and a

number of other federal environmental statutes. Paul helps to set priorities, strategies and goals for the office and provides guidance to and oversight of the office's work units.

In 2011-2012, Paul did a stint as EPA Region 2's senior policy advisor on climate change issues. In 2009, he served on a 4-month detail in EPA Headquarters as the Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

Before becoming Deputy Regional Counsel in 2005, Paul was the Chief of ORC's New York/Caribbean Superfund Branch, and as such, managed that branch's judicial and administrative enforcement efforts concerning hundreds of Superfund sites in New York, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Paul joined EPA in 1985 as a staff attorney, and became a first-line supervisor in 1989. Before coming to EPA, Paul was a litigation attorney with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Paul earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and his B.A. from Harvard University.

Patricia Hick

Patricia C. Hick is the Associate Regional Counsel for Criminal Enforcement in Region 2, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She joined Region 2 in 1990 and, before joining the criminal team in 2014, she worked as an attorney in the New Jersey Superfund Branch. Immediately after law school, she acted as a staff attorney for the Interstate Sanitation (now Environmental) Commission. After graduating from Smith College, Pat obtained a joint degree (J.D./M.P.A.) from Syracuse University College of Law and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Charles Lee

Charles Lee is widely recognized as a true pioneer in the arena of environmental justice and helped to give birth to the environmental justice movement in the United States some forty years ago. He was the principal author of the landmark 1987 report, *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States*, organized the historic 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, and helped to spearhead the emergence of federal environmental justice policy, including Executive Order 12898, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

Mr. Lee is currently the Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He led the development and implementation of EPA's agency-wide environmental justice strategic plans, e.g., Plan EJ 2014 and EJ 2020. He has served in multiple capacities, ranging from creating the United Church of Christ's environmental justice program to directing EPA's environmental justice office. He was a charter member of the NEJAC, where he chaired its Waste and Facility Siting committee, and served on the National

Academy of Science/Institute of Medicine Committee on Environmental Justice as well as numerous other panels. In these capacities, he led efforts to incorporate environmental justice into EPA's rulemaking process, develop models for collaborative problem-solving, transform brownfields redevelopment into a community revitalization paradigm, advance approaches to address cumulative risks and impacts, lay a strong science foundation for integrating environmental justice into decision-making, and advancing environmental justice at the state level.

Mr. Lee has authored numerous papers, reports, journals, and articles on environmental justice over the past four decades, most recently on "Confronting Disproportionate Impacts and Systemic Racism in Environmental Policy" (Environmental Law Reporter, vol. 51, no. 3, March 2021) and "Game Changer in the Making? Lessons from States Advancing Environmental Justice Through Mapping and Cumulative Impact Strategies" (Environmental Law Reporter, vol. 50, no. 3, March 2020). He has taught or presented at numerous schools and conferences, including the seminal academic conference on "Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards" at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Lee is the recipient of many awards for his work, including the American Public Health Association's first Damu Smith Environmental Achievement Award. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy presented to him the EJ Pioneer Award on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 12898. In February 2017, the 122nd Session of the South Carolina House of Representatives passed Resolution H*3732 to honor his lifetime of accomplishments in environmental justice and contributions to bettering the lives of communities in that state.

Olivia Glenn

Olivia C. Glenn serves as a Deputy Commissioner to Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Appointed in July 2020, Olivia is responsible for prioritizing the advancement of the administration's environmental justice and equity goals.

A longtime advocate of ensuring underserved communities have access to the outdoors, Olivia believes every New Jersey resident has a right to experience and enjoy the benefits of nature. Olivia previously led the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry, serving since 2018 as its director and managing its 450,000 acres of natural and historic resources. From 2003 to 2009, she worked as the Division's Urban Initiatives and Outreach Coordinator and subsequently served as special assistant to the DEP Deputy Commissioner. Olivia later was a member of the DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Council, leading its efforts in outreach, education and land management.

Olivia also has worked with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, making outdoor spaces and trails more readily available to Greater Philadelphia residents, especially people living in Camden. In 2018, the Camden Collaborative Initiative honored her with the Camden Environmental Hero Award. As Deputy Commissioner, Olivia will also be responsible for environmental justice, diversity and environmental education.

Olivia earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Dartmouth College. She holds a master's degree from the Yale School of the Environment, where she wrote her master's thesis on park revitalization in Camden.

Keynote Address

Margaret Barry (moderator)

L. Margaret Barry is the Environmental Law Writer at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP. She maintains the U.S. Climate Change Litigation Database, a collaboration between Arnold & Porter and the Sabin Center, and is the managing editor of the *Environmental Law in New York* newsletter. She formerly practiced in the environmental client service group at another law firm. Margaret received her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was the editor-in-chief of the *New York University Environmental Law Journal*. She is currently a co-chair of the Environmental Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association.

Walter Mugdan

Walter Mugdan is currently serving, during the presidential transition period, as Acting Regional Administrator for Region 2 of the U.S. EPA. During this time, he also continues to serve as Deputy Regional Administrator, the position he has held since 2017. In these combined roles he manages the 760-person office.

Walter previously served from 2008 to 2018 as Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division (ERRD) where he headed a staff of over 200 employees responsible for the Region's "Superfund" toxic waste cleanup, emergency response and brownfields programs. From 2002 to 2008 Walter served as Director of the Division of Environmental Planning & Protection, where his staff of about 180 scientists, engineers and planners managed the Region's air, water, hazardous waste and environmental review programs. From 1995 to 2002 Walter served as Regional Counsel, where he headed a staff of 80 attorneys in the Office of Regional Counsel. For the prior ten years, Walter served as Deputy Regional Counsel. He joined EPA in 1975 as a staff attorney, and subsequently served in various supervisory positions in the Office of Regional Counsel, including Chief of the units responsible for Superfund, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Clean Air Act. In 1998, Walter spent eight months on a temporary detail as Acting Director of Region 2's Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance, where he managed a staff of 150 engineers, scientists and field inspectors.

Walter has authored numerous publications on environmental law topics, particularly on hazardous waste regulation and remediation. He is a frequent speaker and lecturer on these subjects. From 1991 to 1997 he was an Adjunct Professor at Pace University Law School, where he taught a course on Superfund law. From 1992 until 2019 Walter was the Director of EPA's annual week-long Trial Advocacy Institute. Walter served as an officer of the Environmental Law Section of the New York State Bar Association from 2002-2007, culminating in a one-year term as Section Chair. He has been a member of the Section's Executive Committee since 1985 and, for 17 years, served as Co-Chair of that Section's Hazardous Site Remediation Committee.

In his private life, Walter heads the Udalls Cove Preservation Committee, a local conservation group in northeastern Queens County, NY; and he also heads the Westmoreland Association, his local homeowners' civic association.

He earned his JD (1975) and BA (1972) degrees from the University of Michigan. He is admitted to practice in New York State and the District of Columbia.

Panel Three: Contaminated Site Cleanup and Redevelopment

James P. Rigano (moderator)

James Rigano has concentrated his practice exclusively in environmental law for more than two decades. Mr. Rigano has served in the Enforcement Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, where he was involved in a variety of water pollution control programs and was environmental counsel to the New York Power Authority.

He has extensive experience in subsurface contamination and solid waste issues and has represented clients in numerous matters before environmental regulatory agencies. He has negotiated the environmental issues in numerous transactions and has handled a broad range of cases involving wetlands, open space, and air pollution issues, and has litigated cost recovery actions. Mr. Rigano has had extensive experience with subsurface soil gas issues.

Mr. Rigano has extensive experience with environmental issues in brownfield development projects. He has negotiated technical and environmental issues and has addressed a host of complex regulatory concerns in the redevelopment of contaminated property. Mr. Rigano was environmental counsel for the New York Power Authority where he was involved in the permitting and environmental issues associated with hydroelectric facilities and major transmission lines.

Prior to practicing law, Mr. Rigano was employed for five years as an environmental scientist conducting research on the environmental effects of electric power generation.

Mr. Rigano has authored more than 40 articles and has lectured extensively on a variety of environmental and associated insurance coverage topics. He has also chaired more than 20 environmental conferences. He is actively involved in civic, business and bar association organizations. Long Island Business News has featured him in their "Who's Who in the Law" edition.

Mr. Rigano is an officer of the Environmental Section of the New York State Bar Association. He serves on the Board of the Nassau County Boy Scouts and St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church.

Thomas Lieber

Tom Lieber is the Chief of the New York/Caribbean Superfund Branch within Region 2's Office of Regional Counsel. As such, he manages a caseload that includes legal enforcement and

counseling matters related to Superfund sites in New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including the Hudson River PCBs Site, the Gowanus Canal Site, and the Newtown Creek Site. In addition to Superfund law, Mr. Lieber manages legal cases involving the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act and the risk management provisions of the Clean Air Act. Other experiences at EPA have included more than a decade spent as an alternative dispute resolution specialist for the Region and, after working on legal aspects of the Agency's 9/11 response, several years as co-chair of EPA's national Disaster Law workgroup. Outside the Agency, Mr. Lieber is Chair of his local municipality's planning board, and is an officer of a non-profit land trust and conservation organization on the North Shore of Long Island. Mr. Lieber graduated from Brown University and the University of Pittsburgh Law School

Andrew O. Guglielmi

Andrew O. Guglielmi is a Bureau Chief in the Office of General Counsel (OGC) of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). He currently manages OGC's Bureau of Remediation. The Bureau consists of a team of attorneys, paralegals, an economist, and a marine biologist. The Bureau provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Brownfield cleanup
- Inactive hazardous waste disposal site remediation (State Superfund)
- Environmental restoration and Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Assessments
- Petroleum bulk storage and major oil storage programs
- Hazardous substance bulk storage program
- Spills program
- Emerging contaminant sampling and response

Mr. Guglielmi has served as the lead DEC attorney at several major legacy contamination sites throughout the state, including the Hudson River PCBs matter, the Northrup Grumman Groundwater Plume, and the NRD restoration program at Onondaga Lake. Mr. Guglielmi received his JD, magna cum laude, with a concentration in environmental law, from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School in 2006. Mr. Guglielmi has been with the DEC since December of 2007.

Mark J. Pedersen

Mark Pedersen serves as Assistant Commissioner for Site Remediation and Waste Management to Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Mark has been with the Department of Environmental Protection for more than 35 years. As Assistant Commissioner, his primary responsibilities are to oversee the remediation of contaminated sites in New Jersey and to ensure that solid and hazardous waste are managed in

accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. In addition, he is Chairman of the New Jersey Site Remediation Professional Licensing Board, which oversees the licensing and performance of site remediation professionals.

Mark previously served as Director of Land Use Regulation, responsible for overseeing land use permitting programs. He has worked with the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to facilitate recovery efforts and rebuilding of New Jersey's coastal areas in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

Mark has vast experience in brownfield development, industrial site remediation and enforcement. He has had a lead role in implementing many initiatives, including those leading to the Site Remediation Reform Act.

Panel Four: Water Issues

Tirza Wahrman (moderator)

Tirza S. Wahrman serves as a Director of the Environmental Law Section of the New Jersey Bar. Tirza is a solo practitioner and a court-qualified mediator with offices in Princeton Junction and New York City. She handles environmental and other litigation matters, including consumer fraud claims, special education cases and employment disputes. A former Deputy Attorney General in the environmental practice group, Tirza's articles on congestion pricing to reduce vehicle miles traveled, on brownfield remediation, and the Clean Air Act have been published in major law reviews. Tirza has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at Seton Hall Law School and Barnard College. In her role as a Vice Chair of the West Windsor Environmental Commission, Tirza works to facilitate implementation of the new Plastic Pollution Reduction Act in New Jersey.

Phyllis Feinmark

Phyllis Feinmark is Chief of the Water and General Law Branch in USEPA's Office of Regional Counsel in New York City. She concentrates her practice in the fields of wetlands law and regulation, Safe Drinking Water Act and NPDES compliance and counseling, and dredge material disposal. For nearly forty years, Ms. Feinmark has worked extensively in the field of wetland permitting and regulation in the New York/New Jersey area, and was instrumental in the EPA approval of the New Jersey-assumed wetlands program. Ms. Feinmark also works on dredge material disposal issues relating to the Port of New York and New Jersey, earning EPA's highest honor for her work on the de-designation of the Mud Dump Site and creation of the Historic Area Remediation Site. Most recently, EPA recognized Ms. Feinmark's work in ensuring that Puerto Rico's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs continue to be viable sources of water infrastructure financing for the benefit of the people of Puerto Rico, presenting her with a gold medal as well as an award for Outstanding Leadership in Collaborative Problem-Solving. She has also negotiated settlements in complex Safe Drinking Water enforcement actions in both New York and New Jersey. Before coming to EPA, Ms.

Feinmark was employed for five years as an Assistant District Counsel at the US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, where she worked primarily on wetlands regulation and enforcement. Prior to moving to the New York area, Ms. Feinmark resided in Sweden, where she was a research fellow in risk assessment at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and an environmental consultant to the Swedish Department of Agriculture. She earned her J.D. with general honors from George Washington University National Law Center, and her B.A. with general honors from Johns Hopkins University. She is admitted to the bars of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Vincent Mazzei

Vincent Mazzei serves as Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management, overseeing the Division of Land Resource Protection and the new Division of Watershed Protection & Restoration of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Selected to lead the WLM program in June, Vince previously supervised the Bureau of Inland Regulation, in the Division of Land Use Regulation.

Vince began his DEP career in 1988, following his graduation from Stevens Institute of Technology. He is a licensed professional engineer and is regarded as an expert in flood risk analysis and mitigation. For more than 30 years, Vince has worked to support environmentally responsible planning, design and construction of thousands of development and infrastructure projects throughout New Jersey.

Vince authored New Jersey's Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, which are the most stringent statewide flood hazard area and stream corridor protection regulations in the nation. He has a leading role in the development of NJPACT, a targeted regulatory reform initiative aimed at modernizing many of the state's environmental regulations to protect against climate threats. He also serves as chairman of the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management.

Vince was named the 2018 Government Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers, North Jersey Branch, and the 2016 Civil Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Central Jersey Branch. He is a two-time recipient of the State of New Jersey Teamwork and Partnership Award.

Vince earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Stevens and a master's degree in theology from Pennsylvania's Cairn University. His interests include hiking, traveling, volunteering and composing music, as well as studying history, theology and mathematical theory.

Vince lives in Hunterdon County with his wife (and fellow DEP employee), Becky, and their three children, Zachary, Evelyn and Jonah.

Amanda Lefton

Prior to serving as the Director for U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Amanda Lefton most recently served as the First Assistant Secretary for Energy and Environment for the

Governor of New York where she led the State's climate and environmental initiatives and managed a portfolio of twelve agencies and authorities. In this role she championed and advanced implementation of landmark nation leading climate and renewable energy strategies. Previously, Amanda was the Deputy Policy Director for The Nature Conservancy in New York, worked in the labor movement for the Rochester Regional Joint Board of Workers United, and for the New York State Assembly. She also worked for the State Senate.

Originally from Queens, NY, Ms. Lefton grew up on Long Island, NY, and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University at Albany.

The Commissioners Speak

Basil Seggos

Basil Seggos was appointed DEC Commissioner by Governor Andrew Cuomo, and has served in this role since October 2015, leading an agency of over 3,000 professionals. As Commissioner, he oversees programs that promote a clean, healthy and accessible environment, including: protecting and restoring New York's air, lands and waters, combatting climate change, enforcing State environmental laws and regulations, responding to natural and man-made disasters, and supporting world-class outdoor recreation on state lands and waters, including hunting, fishing, hiking and paddling.

Seggos was instrumental in the passage of the state's nation-leading climate change law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and now serves as the co-chair of its implementing body, the Climate Action Council. Seggos also devised and is responsible for the \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act and spearheaded the reauthorization of the State's Superfund law and reforms of the Brownfield Tax Credit program. As co-chair of the State's Drinking Water Quality Council, Seggos oversaw the establishment of the most protective water quality standards for PFOA/PFOS and 1,4-dioxane.

In addition to leading DEC, Commissioner Seggos advises the Governor on environmental policy and issues. He also serves on a variety of boards, including as chair of the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), chair of the Hudson River Park Trust, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Delaware River Basin Commission, the Great Lakes Commission, the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, NYS Energy Planning Board, and others.

Prior to becoming DEC Commissioner, Seggos served as the Deputy Secretary for the Environment for the Governor, where he counseled the Governor on environmental policy and the operations of New York's environmental agencies, including DEC, the Office of State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, EFC and the APA, and was a liaison to the State Legislature on environmental issues and legislation.

Before his career in State government, Seggos served as Vice President of Business Development at Hugo Neu Corporation, a clean tech private equity company. He served as Chief Investigator and Attorney for Riverkeeper. During law school, he was legal clerk at the President's Council on Environmental Quality. He began his career as an Associate at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

Seggos graduated with a B.A. from Trinity College in 1996, and earned his law degree from Pace School of Law University in 2001, where he received the Environmental Law award and Alumni Achievement award.

Seggos is an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Shawn LaTourette

Appointed by Governor Philip D. Murphy, Shawn M. LaTourette became New Jersey's Acting Commissioner of Environmental Protection on January 16, 2021. He was sworn in as Commissioner on June 14, 2021. Commissioner LaTourette is responsible for formulating statewide environmental policy while directing programs that protect public health and ensure the quality of New Jersey's air, land, water, and natural and historic resources.

A lawyer and policymaker with more than 20 years of experience in environmental protection, Commissioner LaTourette began his career defending victims of toxic exposure, including organizing and advocating for the needs of vulnerable New Jersey communities whose drinking water was contaminated by petrochemicals. Throughout a career shaping environmental law and policy, he has served in executive roles and as a trusted adviser to governments, community and non-profit organizations, and leaders in industry and infrastructure, while also litigating high-stakes lawsuits involving environmental, energy and public health concerns.

Commissioner LaTourette first joined the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as the chief legal and regulatory policy adviser to then-Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe in 2018. He was elevated to DEP Chief of Staff in 2019 and to Deputy Commissioner in 2020. Since 2019, he has been responsible for running DEP's operations while formulating policy and regulatory reforms to advance Governor Murphy's environmental, climate change and clean energy priorities. Commissioner LaTourette has developed and led initiatives that prioritize environmental justice while facilitating greenhouse gas emissions reductions, climate change resilience and adaptation, renewable energy deployment, water infrastructure enhancement, brownfields redevelopment, community renewal, and natural resource conservation and restoration.

Guided by a deep commitment to equity and a professional philosophy that uniting economic development and environmental improvement promotes the public good, Commissioner LaTourette has been regarded as a consensus builder adept at achieving balance among competing priorities. His diverse background — in protecting vulnerable communities, facilitating the development of infrastructure and public works, managing business risk, promoting conservationist policies and advocating for equity — has made him a leading force in policy, program and project development, especially those at the complex juncture of economic development, energy and environmental protection.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Commissioner LaTourette graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers University and earned his law degree summa cum laude from Rutgers Law School, where he was the class salutatorian and the recipient of multiple environmental and governance

awards, and published scholarship on environmental law, natural resource damage and climate issues.

Vincent Sapienza

Since joining the New York City Department of Environmental Protection in 1983, Commissioner Vincent Sapienza has dedicated his career to protecting and improving New York City's critical water infrastructure. Prior to his current role, Mr. Sapienza served in two senior positions within the agency, leading the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment from 2009 through 2014, and then heading the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction until June 2016. He then served as Acting Commissioner until his appointment as DEP Commissioner on October 3, 2017.

According to Sapienza, "Our mission at DEP is to equitably provide services that promote the health and wellbeing of all 8.6 million city residents, while continuing to be a good neighbor and partner with dozens of upstate communities. New Yorkers are fortunate to have an ample supply of some of the best drinking water in the world, thanks to the foresight and toil of seven generations of our predecessors, and the continuing vigilance of current DEP staff.

"We've also invested heavily in recent years on wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities, resulting in less street flooding and significantly healthier waterways. The City's beaches, rivers and bays are cleaner today than they've been in more than a century. Still, there is much work to do, and we are investing in major capital upgrades to ensure that recreational opportunities can be further expanded.

"We must ensure that our massive infrastructure, which extends more than 100 miles from the city, is maintained in good operating condition and is resilient. To do that, we actively recruit individuals with a diverse set of skills and backgrounds, and we provide them with extensive training and opportunities to advance within DEP. We also promote a culture of efficiency and innovation, recognizing that DEP's operating and capital costs are directly funded by New Yorkers through water bills."

Mr. Sapienza is a New York State Licensed Professional Engineer and holds a B.S. from Columbia University and an MBA from Hofstra University's School of Business.

Rafael Machargo

Rafael Machargo Maldonado is Secretary of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico.

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol is Commissioner of the Department of Planning & Natural Resources of the U.S. Virgin Islands. A life-long resident of the Virgin Islands and graduate of All Saints Cathedral School, he has been with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources since June 2000. Bringing a passion for the environment and love of the territory, Oriol was able to utilize his degree in biology from Brandeis University and work experience in his family's small business in his first role in the Division of Coastal Zone Management as an Environmental Assessor. In the better part of two decades with CZM, Oriol has held numerous titles and responsibilities to include: Environmental Assessor, Federal Consistency Coordinator, Special

Projects Coordinator, Assistant Director, and was named the division Director in February 2011, a post which he has held thru 2018.

Highly respected by federal partners such as NOAA, the Department of Interior, the EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Oriol is relied upon to provide expertise from the territory on many coastal issues, especially those related to permitting, planning, adaptation and coral reef management. Having held the Acting Commissioner title more than once, Oriol is well prepared to address the complex issues of the entire Department. His approachable style and leadership philosophy is one that supports the balance between the economic needs of the territory and the protection of the territory's precious natural and cultural resources.

Jean-Pierre, more commonly known as "JP", lives on St. Thomas with his wife Shannon and their two sons Jean-René (12) and Harrison (8). Together the Oriol family is very involved in the boys' school and athletic activities. They enjoy traveling and exploring the many beaches of the Virgin Islands.