

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Renewable Energy Law Institute**  
**January 27-28, 2026 • AT&T Conference Center • Austin, TX**  
**January 27-28, 2026 • Live Webcast**

**Tuesday Morning, Jan. 27, 2026**

**Presiding Officer:**

**Chris Reeder**, Husch Blackwell LLP - Austin, TX

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7:30 am  
In Austin Only

**Registration Opens**

Includes continental breakfast.

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8:20 am

**Welcoming Remarks**

8:30 am  
0.50 hr

**What's New?**

Hear a lively update on developments affecting the renewable energy market.

Keith Martin, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP - Washington, DC

9:00 am  
1.00 hr

**Federal Energy Policy**

What a difference a year makes. The Trump administration has moved from an all-of-the-above energy strategy during the first term to obstruction of wind and solar projects. Eighty percent of new capacity additions to the grid this year are still expected to come from renewables. A panel of policy experts will share insights on how to deal with the obstacles and what to expect over the next year from Washington.

**Moderator:**

Keith Martin, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP - Washington, DC

**Panelist:**

Michael Catanzaro, CGCN Group - Washington, DC

JC Sandberg, American Clean Power Association - Washington, DC

John Smirnow, Smirnow Law - Washington, DC

Whitney Stanco, Compass Point Research & Trading, LLC - Washington, DC

<p>10:00 am 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Texas Legislative Outlook &amp; Policy Updates</b></p> <p>Highlight pivotal legislative developments from the 89th Session shaping Texas’s energy future. Explore strategies to accelerate grid modernization and enable the reliable, low-cost delivery of clean power to meet rising statewide demand.</p> <p>Mark R. Stover, Texas Solar + Storage Association - Austin, TX Patricia Zavala, PowerHouse Texas - Austin, TX</p>
<p>10:45 am</p>	<p><b>15-Minute Break</b></p>
<p>11:00 am 0.50 hr</p>	<p><b>Federal Agency Updates</b></p> <p>Another day, another permitting reform discussion. Hear about the current federal landscape for renewable energy projects, including the latest statutory and regulatory updates affecting projects proposed on federal lands and waters.</p> <p>Elizabeth Klein, Penn Washington - Washington, DC</p>
<p>11:30 am 1.00 hr</p>	<p><b>How Federal Policy Impacts Financial Documents</b></p> <p>United States federal policy from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 have drastically shifted how renewable energy projects are financed from a debt and tax credit perspective. Review how sponsors, lenders, investors and tax credit buyers are viewing these changes and allocating risk.</p> <p>Andrew Meyer, Invenergy LLC - Chicago, IL Laura Neumeister Wright, Morgan, Lewis &amp; Bockius LLP - Chicago, IL</p>
<p>12:30 pm In Austin Only</p>	<p><b>Pick Up Lunch (in Austin)</b></p> <p>Included in registration.</p>

## Tuesday Afternoon, Jan. 27, 2026

### Presiding Officer:

**Dawn M. Lewallen**, First American Title Insurance Company - Houston, TX

### Keynote Luncheon Presentation

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1:00 pm  
0.75 hr

**The Geothermal Market of Today: New Opportunities, New Risks**

The geothermal market has changed, with significant expansion in the most recent 10 years. There are three key components driving this geothermal market expansion - new technology, new money, and "new" locations. With expansion, though, comes new risks, which may require legal rulings. Presented here are the most recent developments of the geothermal market - the technology, the locations, the money that is driving new growth for this 100-year-old industry, and the risks that are becoming top priority issues.

Joseph F. Batir, PhD, BatirWeGo Holdings LLC - Dallas, TX

1:45 pm

**15-Minute Break**

2:00 pm  
0.75 hr

**Shared Facilities Agreements: Planning for the Future**

Discuss key issues when drafting agreements for phased and co-located projects for wind, solar, energy storage and thermal projects, including regulatory, real estate point and interconnection issues.

Daniel Kach, Litwin Kach LLP - Chicago, IL

2:45 pm  
0.75 hr

**Trends in Renewables M&A: Platforms, Portfolios, and Projects**

A look back at deals in 2025 and some predictions for transaction drivers for 2026.

Moderator:

Andrea Wang Lucan, Sidley Austin LLP - Los Angeles, CA

Panelists:

Jenn Goodwillie, Nova Clean Energy - Austin, TX

Alicia Handy, RWE - Chicago, IL

3:30 pm

**10-Minute Break**

**Thank You to Our Tuesday Break Sponsor**



3:40 pm  
0.75 hr

**Environmental Considerations in the Trump Administration**

An overview of how environmental permitting regimes have changed in the last year, how that has affected compliance strategies, and what other changes can we anticipate.

Brooke M. Marcus, Nossaman LLP - Austin, TX

4:25 pm  
1.00 hr ethics

**Ethical Obligations for Lawyers Using AI**

AI has been in use for more than 50 years, but not everyone realized they were using Machine Learning with search engines. In 2026, all lawyers will rely on some form of AI while working trials and transactions, so it imperative that all lawyers understand their ethical obligations using AI.

Peter S. Vogel, Vogel IT Law - Dallas, TX

5:25 pm  
In Austin Only

**Adjourn to Reception**

In Austin Only

**NETWORKING RECEPTION (5:25 p.m. to 6:25 p.m.)**

Enjoy refreshments and a networking opportunity with colleagues, conference faculty, and planning committee members.

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**Wednesday Morning, Jan. 28, 2026**

**Presiding Officer:**

**Matthew Arth**, ERCOT - Austin, TX

8:00 am  
In Austin Only

**Conference Room Opens**

Includes continental breakfast.

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<p>8:30 am 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Large Loads: ERCOT Insights in Managing the Growing Texas Power Grid</b></p> <p>Six months after the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session passed landmark Senate Bill (SB) 6 dealing with Large Loads, what has occurred with the implementation at the Public Utility Commission of Texas and ERCOT? Cover it all, from co-location considerations to transmission bottlenecks to grid operation implications. Hear how ERCOT is managing this unique challenge to ensuring a more reliable, resilient, and efficient grid for the future.</p> <p>Nathan Bigbee, Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. - Austin, TX</p>
<p>9:15 am 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Financing Data Centers</b></p> <p>Provide an overview of data center financings, including a discussion of the dominant structures in the market, a comparison to renewable energy financings and what this all means for the renewable energy market going forward.</p> <p>Christine Brozynski, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP - New York, NY Christy Rivera, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP - New York, NY</p>
<p>10:00 am</p>	<p><b>15-Minute Break</b></p>
<p>10:15 am 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Pressing Issues in Battery Storage Projects</b></p> <p>Explore how batteries are changing the game in real-time co-optimization markets, what developers and regulators need to know about fire safety, and how new Texas legislation — HB 3809 and HB 3824 — is reshaping the legal landscape for BESS. Whether you’re advising clients, developing projects, or tracking policy trends, this discussion will give you practical insights and a clear view of where battery storage law and technology are headed next.</p> <p>Robert Helton, ENGIE - Bay City, TX</p>
<p>11:00 am 1.00 hr ethics</p>	<p><b>Negotiating Tactics in Energy Disputes: From Good to Ugly</b></p> <p>Break down negotiation approaches commonly used in energy disputes—the “good” (effective and ethical), the “bad” (ineffective), and the “ugly” (counterproductive and potentially unethical). Using real-world hypotheticals, discuss actionable strategies to avoid wasted leverage, spot ethical pitfalls, and recognize when aggressive negotiation tactics cross the line into ethical violations.</p> <p>Austin W. Brister, McGinnis Lochridge - Houston, TX Paul D. Clote, JAMS - Houston, TX</p>
<p>12:00 pm In Austin Only</p>	<p><b>Lunch on Your Own</b></p>

## Wednesday Afternoon, Jan. 28, 2026

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### Track A: Real Estate and Land Use

#### Presiding Officer:

Alan Cohen, Stahl, Sewell, Chavarria, Friend & Cohen, LLP - Austin, TX

<p>1:15 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Land Use Concerns in Urban Energy Projects</b></p> <p>Siting energy projects in urban areas brings unique development and permitting challenges because developer clients will encounter land use concerns that are particular to local government. Explore local policy and permitting topics such as zoning, conditional use permits, site development permits, platting, subdivision, rezoning and covenants, conditions and restrictions and their impacts on urban energy development.</p> <p>Jenna Montesano Burns, Stahl, Sewell, Chavarria, Friend &amp; Cohen, LLP - Austin, TX</p>
<p>2:00 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Digging Deep: Opportunities and Challenges in Geothermal Project Development</b></p> <p>Geothermal project development is a critical component in meeting future energy demand. Explore the full spectrum of geothermal development from foundational steps to the complexities of securing title insurance. Further, discuss whether projects should be treated more like subsurface mineral interests or surface power facilities. Highlight emerging technologies that are expanding geothermals potential across the United States, positioning it as a key source of clean, reliable baseload power.</p> <p>Moderator: Lacy Ward McCormick, Stewart Title Guaranty Company - Atlanta, GA</p> <p>Panelists: David K. Detton, DKD Consulting LLC - Salt Lake City, UT Malissa G. Perkins, Harris, Finley &amp; Bogle, P.C. - Fort Worth, TX Glen Roberts, Stewart Title Guaranty Company - Spanish Fork, UT</p>
<p>2:45 pm</p>	<p><b>15-Minute Break</b></p>
	<p><b>Thank You to Our Wednesday Break Sponsor</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HUSCH BLACKWELL</b></p>
<p>3:00 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Landowner and Community Perspectives</b></p> <p>Discussion of issues that concern landowners and community in renewable energy projects, including strategies for addressing community opposition.</p> <p>Brennan Downes, Doral Renewables - Chicago, IL Brianna J. Schroeder, Janzen Schroeder Agricultural Law LLC - Indianapolis, IN</p>
<p>3:45 pm 0.75 hr</p>	<p><b>Title Insurance Minerals Coverage: Wind, Solar, Data Centers and BESS Projects</b></p> <p>Explore how minerals coverage addresses a critical gap in standard title policies, offering essential protection against the significant risks subsurface mineral rights pose to surface developments like wind and solar farms, data centers, and BESS projects.</p> <p>Mellissa Atle, AmTrust Title - Houston, TX Travis Beerwinkle, EDP Renewables North America - Houston, TX</p>
<p>4:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>

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**Track B: Regulatory****Presiding Officer:****Michael J. Jewell**, Jewell & Associates, PLLC - Austin, TX1:15 pm  
0.75 hr**Reliability: Texas Senate Bill 6**

Senate Bill 6 was passed to ensure fair cost allocation and improved grid reliability given the increased energy demand caused by large load customers like data centers. Explore how ERCOT and the PUCT have implemented SB 6.

Maria Faconti, K&amp;L Gates LLP - Austin, TX

2:00 pm  
0.75 hr**Update on Recent Actions in SPP and MISO Markets**

Discuss recent actions on resource adequacy, transmission, and interconnection of large loads in SPP and MISO. What are the impacts of these actions on renewable generation and battery storage investment? Challenges and opportunities?

Moderator:

Lori Cobos, Cobos Strategies, LLC - Austin, TX

Panelists:

Kimberly O'Guinn, Southwest Power Pool - Little Rock, AR

Carrie Zalewski, American Clean Power Association - Chicago, IL

2:45 pm

**15-Minute Break****Thank You to Our Wednesday Break Sponsor**The logo for Husch Blackwell, featuring the word "HUSCH" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font above the word "BLACKWELL" in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font.3:00 pm  
0.75 hr**Shifts in the Texas Electric Regulatory Landscape**

Review key, recent developments in the regulation of electricity in Texas.

Diana M. Liebmann, Haynes Boone, LLP - San Antonio, TX

3:45 pm  
0.75 hr**Prohibited Foreign Entities (PFEs), Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOCs), Tariffs and Trade**

Discuss new restrictions applicable to PFE and FEOC equipment purchases under the One Big Beautiful Bill and associated impacts on renewable energy supply chains, and review the latest tariff developments and their potential impact.

Grant D. Leach, Husch Blackwell LLP - Omaha, NE

Cynthia Redwine Martinez, Parliament Energy - Houston, TX

4:30 pm

**Adjourn**