

Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

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Revitalizing DEI: Assessing Progress and Charting the Path Forward

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

11:30am-1:00pm ET



Welcome: Ernest House,
Senior Policy Director &
Director, Center for Tribal and
Indigenous Engagement,
Keystone Policy Center



Opening Remarks: Clint Vince,
Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-
chair of the Global Transportation &
Infrastructure sector for the US
Region, and Co-chair of the Global
Smart Cities & Connected
Communities Think Tank, Dentons



Moderator: Presley Reed,
Partner, Energy practice,
Dentons



Paula Glover
President, Alliance to
Save Energy
Panelist

Paula is the President of the Alliance to Save Energy, a bipartisan, nonprofit coalition that promotes federal energy efficiency policy. Throughout her tenure, she has played a crucial role in advancing key policies such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act while securing billions in federal funding for energy efficiency programs. Ms. Glover has also expanded the Alliance's focus on energy justice and the development of next-generation technologies through the Active Efficiency Collaborative and the Energy 2040 Initiative.

Before her tenure at the Alliance, Paula acted as President and CEO of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in energy policy discussions. Additionally, she serves on the boards of Talos Energy, the Keystone Policy Center, Clean Energy Works, and Resources for the Future, as well as holding a position on the National Petroleum Council since 2014 and acting as Trustee for Cardigan Mountain School.

With 25 years of experience, Paula is passionate about realizing an energy-efficient future by leading the Alliance to Save Energy and its diverse political, corporate, and academic membership.



Paula Gold-Williams
Co-Chair of the Board,
Keystone Policy Center

Panelist

Paula serves as the Co-Chair of the Keystone Policy Center, and she has been a member of both the Policy Center and its Energy Board since 2016. Paula also serves on the publicly traded boards of Emera Inc., a North American multinational energy corporation headquartered in Canada, and ReNew, a leading decarbonization solutions provider that is the first clean energy company in India to list on the Nasdaq.

Paula previously served as the President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CPS Energy, San Antonio's (S.A.) 164-year-old fully integrated electric and natural gas municipal utility. During her CEO tenure that extended from November 2015 to January 2022, Paula was the only African American Female CEO in energy. She took the helm of the company by leading over 3,000 mission-driven team members, with a focus on her vision of keeping "People First." Under her leadership, CPS Energy delivered value to its customers and community, as it developed a "Flexible Path" to a new age of energy solutions. Paula serves as an Energy Pillar Co-Chair of Dentons' Smart Cities & Communities Initiatives & Think Tank. She also serves on the U.S. Secretary of Energy's (Jennifer Granholm's) Advisory Board (SEAB).

Paula previously held other board positions, including the following: 1st Vice Chair of the Electric Power Resource Institute (EPRI); Board Treasurer of Greater SATX, San Antonio's regional economic development engine; a member and an assigned Chair Pro Tem of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' San Antonio Branch; and a past Chair of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

In 2022, Diversity Woman named Paula to their Elite 100 Black Women Leaders List. In 2021, Bloomberg designated her a Climate Leader. That year, Smart Energy International listed her as a member of Global & Power Energy Elite. Additionally, the Energy Diversity & Inclusion Council designated her as a Top CEO in Energy. In 2020, she was named Woman of the Year by the San Antonio Business Journal, and she was a finalist for S&P Global Platts' Chief Executive of the Year. In 2019, she was named S&P Global Platts' Chief Trailblazer and the Women's Council on Energy & the Environment (WCEE) voted her as Women's Champion. In 2018, she was recognized as the Energy Thought Leader of the Year by Zpyrme and was a Leadership Award Honoree of the Keystone Policy Center.



**Breann Swann
Nu'uhiwa**
Federal Indian Law &
Policy Consultant

Panelist

Breann has extensive experience advising and advocating for Native communities in Tribal, state, and federal forums, with a focus on labor and employment matters, energy development, water rights, and self-governance.

Breann served as Deputy Staff Director (118th Congress) and Senior Counsel (117th Congress) for the majority on the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. There, she led the team's labor, energy, water, gaming, public lands, and self-governance portfolios and assisted with management of all aspects of the Committee's legislative, oversight, and nominations activities. During her tenure with the Committee, Breann played an instrumental role in advancing Native equities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) and the Inflation Reduction Act, and guiding multiple historic tribal bills through the legislative process to enactment.

Breann's prior experience also includes more than 15 years of direct service to Native communities as in-house and outside counsel to Tribal governments and corporate enterprises in California and Arizona, and as Chief Advocate of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, where she managed federal, state, and local advocacy for the semi-autonomous Native Hawaiian trust/state agency.

	<p>Breann is a former member of the Public Policy and Regulation practice and the Native American Law and Policy practice at Dentons where she provided strategic policy and legal counsel to Native governments and corporations on all aspects of governance and operation, including: drafting Tribal, state, and federal legislation and related advocacy documents; negotiating intergovernmental and other complex agreements and tariffs; drafting Tribal policies and developing related administrative frameworks; conducting internal investigations; and training government and corporate personnel on regulatory and other compliance matters.</p> <p>Breann holds a bachelor's degree from Yale University, a Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California, and a Masters of Laws in Tribal Policy, Law, and Government from Arizona State University, and she periodically guest lectures at these institutions on topics ranging from federal Indian law to tribal energy development to Native Hawaiian rights.</p>
 <p>Robert W. Gee President, Gee Strategies Group, LLC <i>Panelist</i></p>	<p>Robert W. Gee is a leading consultant on energy and power markets, with over 40 years of experience in law, public policy, technology, and finance. He is the founder and President of Gee Strategies Group LLC, a Washington, DC consulting firm that excels in policy analysis, advocacy, and litigation support for diverse clients in the energy and utilities sectors.</p> <p>A native Texan, his public sector energy experience began in Washington as a Trial Attorney at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which was followed years later as Chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Texas. While a Commissioner, he served as Chairman of the Electricity Committee at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). His public service continued when he returned to Washington as Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs and for Fossil Energy at the US Department of Energy.</p> <p>He served as Vice President for Development and Partner Relations for the Electricity Innovation Institute (E2I), an affiliate of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). He was also Of Counsel to the law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld.</p> <p>Mr. Gee currently serves on the boards of various institutions, including the United States Energy Association (Treasurer), North American Energy Standards Board Advisory Council, and Asian Americans in Energy, the Environment, and Commerce (President).</p> <p>His past affiliations included serving as a Trustee for St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, and as a member of the Dallas Regional Panel of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.</p> <p>He is a recipient of various honors and awards, including the distinction of having a hearing room named for him by his colleagues at the Public Utility Commission of Texas.</p> <p>He holds a bachelor's degree with Honors and a Law Degree from the University of Texas at Austin.</p>



Gilberto S. Ocañas
Senior Advisor, Dentons

Panelist

Gilberto has spent thirty years working to build a network of political and business relationships with community leaders, operatives, entrepreneurs and elected officials. His coalition-building skills include gathering local intelligence, performing political outreach and crafting communications strategies that work for his clients. This unique combination of experience has led to Gilberto providing quality business management consulting services to clients in both the public and private sectors, domestically and internationally.

A veteran of four presidential campaigns, Gilberto most recently led the National Latino Presidential Campaign for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in 2000. Other roles include twice serving as the DNC regional field director, in addition to his role as DNC director of the Office of Voter Participation under the late Chairman Ron Brown. Gilberto has run statewide campaigns in Texas. When he began, he was one of the first Hispanics to do so. When he was director of Communications for the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, he led one of the most successful voter registration and education groups in the Southwest.

Gilberto's experience in turning a start-up business in 1992 into a successful security printing and fulfillment company has given him insights into key business issues of governmental contracting. The success of his business enterprise, coupled with his commitment to maintain a strong civic presence, garnered him local recognition as the "Hispanic Businessman of the Year" as well as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. *Hispanic* magazine recognized Gilberto as a "Rising Entrepreneur."

Gilberto has served on the National Advisory Boards of the Resolution Trust Corporation, the US Small Business Administration, the US Secretary of Energy and the Smithsonian Task Force on Latino Affairs.



Gail Lione
Senior Counsel, Dentons

Panelist

Gail A. Lione is a senior counsel at Dentons, where she draws upon her extensive experience as a former general counsel and as an active board member to advise executive leadership and boards of public and private companies about business strategy, innovation, risk management and ESG (environment, social/sustainability and governance). She currently serves as a Fellow of the ESG Center of The Conference Board and is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, teaching an advanced course on strategically managing intellectual property. In 2015, she was elected as a member of the American Law Institute.

Gail is the founding co-chair of the Firm's US ESG Advisory Team and a member of the Global ESG Steering Group. She also co-chairs the ESG pillar for the Firm's Global Smart Cities and Connected Communities Think Tank. A longtime advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace, Gail recently completed a term on Denton's Global Inclusion and Diversity Leadership Council and a five-year term as co-chair of Dentons' US Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Gail is a sought-after board member for corporations. She currently serves on the board of Sargento Foods, Inc., where she is a member of the Compensation Committee. She served a ten-year term on the board of Badger Meter, Inc. (NYSE: BMI), where she was a member of the Corporate Governance and Compensation Committees and formerly was the lead director. Until the end of 2017, Gail was a director of The F. Dohmen Co., a life sciences company, and a member of its Audit Committee. She is a member of Women Corporate Directors, DC chapter, and currently serves as its co-chair.

Her nonprofit board experience has been meaningful including global leadership roles. She was the founding co-chair of the University of Rochester's Global Women's Network,

where she also served on its Board of Trustees for 25 years; and she was the chair of the Women United Global Leadership Council of United Way Worldwide, which represents over 70,000 women around the globe. Today, she is on the boards of the Junior Tennis Championship Center (JTCC) in College Park, Maryland; and The Phillips Collection, the Abramson Scholarship Foundation, and Dog Tag Inc. in Washington DC.

Prior to joining Dentons, Gail served as general counsel of three companies in three industries: global marketing/manufacturing; publishing, printing and digital imaging; and insurance, banking and financial services. As general counsel, she led international growth strategies including mergers and acquisitions, brand management, human resources and compliance. Most recently, she was the executive vice president, general counsel, secretary and chief compliance officer of Harley-Davidson, Inc. She also served as president of the Harley-Davidson Foundation. For the seven years prior to joining Harley-Davidson, Gail was general counsel and secretary of US News & World Report and its affiliates, the Atlantic Monthly Company, Applied Graphics Technologies, Inc., and Applied Printing Technologies. Her first general counsel position was with Sun Life Group of America (SunAmerica) in Atlanta, where she managed the legal affairs and all regulatory activities of five insurance companies licensed in 50 states.