
Energy Litigation Seminar Speakers:

“Data Analytics – The Power of Data in Energy Litigation”



DAVID DESLAURIERS

*Vice President, Energy Litigation and Regulatory,
Charles River Associates (Boston)*

David DesLauriers brings more than two decades of experience advising executive management of investor-owned utilities on rates and pricing, regulatory affairs and strategy, rate design, revenue requirements, cost of service and cost allocation, and regulatory compliance and market planning topics.

DesLauriers' client base includes utilities, regulatory commissions, state agencies, governmental entities, utility customer groups, private equity and institutional energy investors, and other significant industry stakeholders. He advises domestic and international energy clients on matters related to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission litigation and rate setting, regulatory compliance, energy market studies, grid modernization, distributed energy resource pricing and resource planning, and due diligence for mergers and acquisitions transactions. He delivers a unique blend of regulatory policy acumen and practical litigation experience to provide highly effective and supportable solutions to his clients.

DesLauriers testifies widely as an expert witness on issues such as utility cost of service, rate design, and regulatory policy and compliance matters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and in state, federal, and Canadian provincial jurisdictions. In the past few years, he has led and provided oral testimony in several high-profile regulated electric rate setting proceedings. He most recently testified before the Ontario Energy Board on the topic of electric transmission rate setting.

He is an active member of the Energy Bar Association's Electricity Regulation Committee. A frequent speaker at energy industry conferences, DesLauriers recently spoke before the American Bar Association at its 50th Spring Conference on Environmental Law. He has published articles in the energy trade press and is also a regular contributor to the Energy Law Journal.

Prior to joining Charles River Associates, DesLauriers worked as Director of Federal Energy Regulatory Affairs with Black & Veatch Management Consulting and as Senior Manager in KPMG's Utilities Regulated Services practice. He began his career with Stone & Webster when it was headquartered in Boston, with project work focused on utility regulatory rate setting and pricing matters and wholesale energy market development.



MARGARITA PATRIA, PH.D.

*Principal, Energy and Auctions Practices,
Charles River Associates (Boston)*

Margarita Patria is a Ph.D. economist and an energy subject matter expert with more than fifteen years of consulting experience specializing in energy markets and market design. In addition to her work at Charles River Associates, Patria is also an adjunct professor at Northeastern University and a Board member for the Boston chapter of the Women's Energy Network.

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Patria has extensive experience in auction and market design, auction and market implementation, auction software, competitive bidding mechanisms, e-commerce, and bidder strategy and support. She has been instrumental in successful projects in electricity, telecommunications, agricultural commodities, advertising, and other industries. She is currently leading successful energy and renewable procurements in multiple states and is responsible for energy analysis and forecasting.

Patria received her Ph.D. in Economics from Boston College, specializing in applied econometrics, game theory, and economic modeling. She was a visiting scholar and teaching fellow at Boston College, and she is now a lecturer in the Economics Department at Northeastern University, where she teaches courses on microeconomics and economics of energy markets. Her research interests include applied econometrics, market design, game theory, and energy markets. Patria has authored several academic papers and is fluent in both English and Russian.

As a board member for the Women's Energy Network in Boston, Patria contributes to the organization's mission to foster career and leadership opportunities for other women who work in the energy field.

Energy Litigation Seminar Speakers:

“Tools & Techniques for Persuading Today’s Oil & Gas Jurors”



GEORGE FIBBE

Partner, Baker Botts (Houston)

Drawing on his broad experience in private practice, as a general counsel, and in government service, George Fibbe represents clients in complex commercial disputes and regulatory matters. Fibbe’s practice focuses on high-stakes matters across the energy sector, including upstream and midstream oil and gas, LNG, renewables, nuclear, and the power industry.

Before joining Baker Botts, Fibbe served as Deputy General Counsel for Litigation, Regulation & Enforcement for the U.S. Department of Energy, where he oversaw a wide range of legal matters arising from the department’s missions of advancing energy security, promoting scientific innovation, ensuring security and environmental cleanup of the nation’s nuclear weapons complex, and other energy-related operations. Included among his responsibilities at the DOE were its large-scale complex litigation and pre-litigation matters, including major environmental and nuclear waste related matters, regulatory and administrative claims, contractor disputes, intellectual property and other commercial contracts, employment and whistleblower disputes, and land acquisition. In that role, he worked closely with the Department of Justice, the Office of Management & Budget’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, and other federal agencies.

Fibbe also was lead counsel for departmental rulemakings and related regulatory and administrative matters, including serving as chair of the DOE’s deregulatory task force. He was responsible for all civil enforcement matters of the Department and headed the team dedicated to enforcement of energy efficiency standards for manufacturers.

Fibbe’s in-house experience includes service as general counsel of a solar power company, where he led the legal team’s efforts not only on disputes, but also on a variety of regulatory, corporate transactional and finance projects.

He has also served as head of litigation for the petroleum division of a major international natural resources corporation. He handled numerous matters arising from onshore shale production, including royalty disputes, contractual claims, business torts, major personal injury, and environmental damage.

In private practice, Fibbe represented clients in the energy, mining, steel, aviation, construction, and real estate industries in complex commercial litigation and arbitration matters. He handled cases involving data ownership and protection, IT contracts, intellectual property, antitrust claims, commercial contract disputes, and various business torts.



SHELLEY SPIECKER, PH.D.

Senior Litigation Consultant, Persuasion Strategies, Holland & Hart (Denver)

Shelley Spiecker has been advising attorneys on case strategy, courtroom persuasion, and jury selection for more than twenty-five years. With a doctorate in legal communication, she is skilled at finding common language to connect seasoned dispute attorneys, jurors from all walks of life, expert witnesses, and also witnesses who have had little or no courtroom exposure.

Spiecker’s experience spans the realm of civil litigation, including energy, construction, and commercial litigation. Most recently, she has focused on commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on the oil and gas field, working collaboratively with more than twenty-five energy companies. Her success stories range from arbitration rooms to courtrooms, even with skeptical juries and unfavorable jurisdictions.

Spiecker uses sophisticated techniques to help her clients refine their trial strategy. She designs and analyzes focus groups and a variety of litigation simulations – including mock jury trials, mock bench trials, and mock arbitrations – to test the efficacy of different messaging and graphics. Spiecker’s studies of the tactical use of innuendo in the courtroom, as well as her extensive analyses of effective opening statements and closing arguments, further inform her clients regarding juror decision-making.

She is nationally recognized for her work helping to prepare witnesses for deposition and trial. Spiecker has fine-tuned her preparation of witnesses, helping them to translate their testimony into familiar phrasing, and to enhance their credibility and likeability with the jury. Together with the trial team, she develops themes and language strategies to make the complexities of the disputed issues understandable for the jurors.

Spiecker has three degrees in communication, including a Ph.D. with an emphasis on legal communication and qualitative and quantitative research methods. She has an extensive list of publications and an even longer list of presentations, numbering in the dozens nationwide. She is nationally recognized as having unparalleled expertise in energy litigation.