

## **Panel 1 Biographies**

**Michael B. Mager** is a cum laude graduate of the State University of New York at Albany (B.A., 1987) and graduated with distinction from Hofstra University School of Law (J.D., 1990). He was an Associate Editor of the Hofstra Law Review. Mr. Mager became associated with the Couch White, LLP in 1990 and became a partner on July 1, 1997. He is a member of the Firm's Energy practice group. Mr. Mager appears regularly in regulatory proceedings. He is admitted to practice in New York and the United States District Court for the Northern and Western Districts of New York.

Mr. Mager's practice has been devoted primarily to representing the interests of large industrial, commercial and institutional energy consumers. Mr. Mager routinely represents clients in matters before the New York State Public Service Commission, the New York Independent System Operator, Inc., the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the New York State Reliability Council. Mr. Mager has negotiated contracts with utilities and energy service companies; handled dispute matters involving rates and terms of service; assisted clients in obtaining economic development rates; and evaluated and represented clients in the development of competitive options including on-site generation and gas bypass opportunities.

Additionally, through his representation of Multiple Intervenors, an association of many of New York State's largest industrial, commercial and institutional energy consumers, Mr. Mager also has participated actively in numerous electric and gas rate proceedings involving Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid, and Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

**Catherine Luthin** has over 30 years of financial and energy management experience within the corporate, governmental, non-profit and regulatory environments. She is the President and founder of Luthin Associates, an energy management consulting firm that proactively manages energy procurement and sustainability services for its clients. This is accomplished by delivering cost savings based upon innovative thinking and process improvements for the educational, health care and real estate industries.

Catherine also chairs and manages Consumer Power Advocates (CPA), an association of large, non-profit institutions whose primary goal is to decrease the cost of energy by focusing on regulatory decisions and programs which impact energy consumers in New York State. CPA members include seven of the largest employers in NYC and five of the six largest medical institutions in the region.

Catherine was a member of former Mayor Bloomberg's New York City [Energy Policy Task Force](#) and is currently a member of BOMA NY's Energy Committee, the Association of Energy Engineer's Certified Energy Procurement Board, and she is Energy Policy Chairperson for the Association of Energy Engineer's Council on Women and Environmental leadership. Catherine has also taken leadership roles in many women mentoring programs.

In 2002 Catherine was named “[Energy Service Professional of the Year](#)” for the State of New York and in 2004 was named international “Energy Service Professional of the Year” by the Association of Energy Engineers. In addition, Luthin Associates has been awarded as one of the Top 100 Diversity Businesses in New Jersey and has been Awarded Outstanding MWBE by Anchin in 2012 and received Anchin's Outstanding Advocacy Award in 2013. Catherine has also been a guest lecturer at CUNY, Institute for Urban Systems, Cornell University, and Columbia University’s Environmental and Energy Policy Department. She is a results-focused and effectual leader with proven ability to develop and implement energy management initiatives within major New York institutions.

Before the founding of Luthin Associates, Catherine worked in New York City’s Office of Energy Conservation as a program manager within the Department of General Services. Here, in 1996, she organized the implementation of a \$10 million dollar natural gas contract for twelve large city facilities. This was one of the first deregulated energy contracts in New York and saved the City \$1.3 million. She also served as the City’s representative in individual negotiations with local utilities that helped shape the future of energy deregulation in New York. Catherine has interceded on behalf of her clients in every major Con Edison and National Grid rate case since 2002. She has also been a frequent intervener in FERC issues.

Luthin Associates’ original line of services involved managing its clients’ energy portfolios. Catherine started with Columbia University and today provides these services for 17 clients. The electric load of those customers located in NYC represents 3% of Con Edison’s peak electric load. In 2008, Luthin Associates began a partnership with NYSERDA. Her firm was selected to provide outreach services to the healthcare industry in New York State. In 2012, this effort was expanded to higher education, commercial real estate and retail. As a result of this new business line and increased sales in other traditional services, employment at the firm has increased from eight in 2006 to 17 people today.

As a financial energy management firm, Luthin Associates main focus is reducing its clients’ costs. To that end, we have helped our clients save more than \$309 million in energy costs since 2000.

Catherine has an MBA and a Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

**Gerald A. Norlander, Esq.** is Executive Director of the Public Utility Law Project of New York, Inc. He was Chair of the NASUCA Electricity Committee from 2001 – 2008 and is an attorney. The Utility Project is a not for profit organization representing interests of residential consumers in matters affecting access to energy and telecom services, affordability and consumer protection.

**Marcos D. Vigil** was appointed in 2011 to serve as New York State Deputy Secretary of State. Under the guidance of Secretary of State Cesar Peralas, Mr. Vigil is responsible for overseeing the Division of Consumer Protection, the Division of Administrative Rules, Division of Cemeteries, Division of Corporations, State Records and UCC and the Division of Licensing

Services. He currently also serves as Interim Director of the Utilities Intervention Unit, a part of the Division of Consumer Protection.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Vigil was associated with the international law firms of Thelen Reid & Priest LLP and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP in New York City before joining Brody & Browne LLP, also in New York, as Counsel. Throughout his professional career, Mr. Vigil handled complex commercial litigation and employment law matters for domestic and international clients, as well as provided general business advice to clients. He has served as Deputy General Counsel for the Hispanic National Bar Association, and as a board member to the Puerto Rican Bar Association of New York. In 2011, Mr. Vigil was selected to the Super Lawyers Magazine New York Rising Stars - Metro Edition.

Mr. Vigil is a graduate of Princeton University and Fordham University School of Law.