



2025 Policy Virtual Workshop

Speaker Profiles



Amanda Aspatore

Chief Legal Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Officer at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in DC, represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide on legal, regulatory, and policy matters to ensure they have the tools necessary to provide affordable and sustainable clean water for all. Prior to joining NACWA, Ms. Aspatore worked as the Associate General Counsel, Litigation & Environment at the Edison Electric Institute and the Vice President, Water Law & Policy at the National Mining Association. Ms. Aspatore also served as a law clerk in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Virginia and the US Department of Transportation's Office of Hearings.

Ms. Aspatore has received certification from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Standards Academy, and is a graduate of the William and Mary School of Law, where she served on the Environmental Law and Policy Review, and Washington and Lee University. Ms. Aspatore is admitted to practice in VA.



Mickey Conway

NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO

Mickey Conway was named as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Metro Water Recovery in Denver, Colorado in January 2018. He served as Metro's General Counsel for the 4 years prior to his appointment as CEO. Metro Water Recovery operates two treatment plants and collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of approximately 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area.

Prior to working at Metro Water Recovery, Mr. Conway represented wastewater and public entities for nearly twenty years as an attorney. He holds a BA from Southern Methodist University and a JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Mr. Conway currently serves as President on NACWA's Board of Directors.



Annie D'Amato

Senior Director, Energy and Environment
Invariant
Washington, DC

An attorney with extensive energy and environmental policy experience, **Annie D'Amato** leads policy and coalition-building efforts to help Invariant's clients before the Administration and Capitol Hill. Previously, Ms. D'Amato served as Democratic counsel to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where she managed legislative drafting for the committee's title in the Inflation Reduction Act. She also helped draft the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, which became law under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and was instrumental in crafting the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.



Nathan Gardner-Andrews

Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Nathan Gardner-Andrews serves as the Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, where he has worked since 2006. In his role, he is responsible for coordinating all NACWA's advocacy initiatives and integrating the Association's legislative, regulatory, and legal advocacy work. He has written articles and spoken nationally on a wide range of clean water issues.

Mr. Gardner-Andrews previously served as NACWA's General Counsel, advising the Association and its municipal clean water utility members on a variety of legal matters and managing NACWA's litigation portfolio. Prior to joining NACWA, Mr. Gardner-Andrews served as a law clerk for the Hon. Michael E. Loney of the Maryland Circuit Court.

Mr. Gardner-Andrews is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bars. He received his BA from Columbia University in 2001 and his JD from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2005.



Drew Griffin
Vice President
Invariant
Washington, DC

Drew Griffin leads Invariant's Health Care practice group. With over a decade of experience on Capitol Hill and extensive relationships across House Republican leadership and the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees, Mr. Griffin helps Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, and health technology start-ups clear regulatory hurdles and drive business growth. He ensures clients are strategically positioned to lead on issues like regulatory certainty at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), workforce challenges for providers, and the intersection of health with AI. He knows the levers to pull to promote and protect the needs of the industry. Previously, Mr. Griffin served as chief of staff for Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. In this role, he worked to expand coverage for telehealth services during COVID-19 and remove barriers for workers to utilize Health Savings Accounts. He also worked with the FDA to secure the pharmaceutical supply chain and championed efforts to improve data collection and information sharing to combat the opioid epidemic. Earlier in his career, Mr. Griffin worked for then-Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) – where he played a key role in efforts to repeal the Medical Device Tax – and former Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA).



Jessica Kramer
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

Jess Kramer has been nominated by President Trump to serve as Assistant Administrator for Water at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Office of Water implements foundational environmental statutes passed by Congress, such as the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act to support clean and safe water that is vital to healthy Americans, vibrant ecosystems, a thriving economy, energy independence, and outdoor recreation.

Ms. Kramer is currently serving as a Senior Advisor to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. Most recently, she served as Deputy Secretary of Regulatory Programs at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection where she managed statewide environmental programs. Ms. Kramer also briefly served as a senior policy advisor and counsel for Government Relations at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. She has extensive experience developing and implementing water policy, including serving as water counsel under Ranking Member (now Chair) Shelley Moore-Capito for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She served in EPA's Office of Water

previously, as Senior Policy Counsel to the Assistant Administrator under the first Trump Administration. Ms. Kramer also worked for roughly six years in the State of Wisconsin, as an Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice in the Environmental Protection Unit and in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as an environmental enforcement specialist and attorney. Jessica earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and her law degree from Marquette University Law School.



Adam Krantz

Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Adam Krantz is currently Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), where he has served in a number of positions since May 2001. Mr. Krantz directs an unparalleled team in DC, that advocates on behalf of the nation's public clean water agencies on an array of regulatory, legislative, legal and communication initiatives. NACWA's goal is to maximize the influence of the nation's public clean water agencies and to broaden the awareness of the vital role they serve in ensuring clean and safe water for all.

Prior to his position at NACWA, Mr. Krantz was an associate editor/reporter at Inside Washington Publishers where his work focused on covering the US Environmental Protection Agency's, Congress's and the federal court system's national water quality initiatives. Before entering the environmental arena, Mr. Krantz worked as an attorney in the DC law firm, Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky on litigation matters.

Mr. Krantz served as the President of the Federal Water Quality Association and also served as the first Vice President of the Clean Water America Alliance (now the US Water Alliance). Mr. Krantz also serves on the Board of WFX (the Water Finance Exchange) and has degrees from Columbia University in New York City, the American University's Washington College of Law in DC, and the University of Chicago. He is a member of both the DC and MD Bar Associations.



Michele Nellenbach

Director, Government Affairs & Public Policy
Steptoe LLP
Washington, DC

Michele Nellenbach advises clients on federal legislative strategies, focusing on technology, energy, infrastructure, corporate governance, workforce, and small businesses. Ms. Nellenbach served nearly 13 years on Capitol Hill, including working for the Senate

Environment and Public Works Committee for over six years. Ms. Nellenbach was the lead staffer on the Committee for Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Waters of the US Issues, including the intersection with Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and pesticides. She began her Hill career in the office of former Senator Frank Murkowski and then on the staff of former Representative Nancy Johnson.

Prior to joining Steptoe, Ms. Nellenbach was the vice president of Bipartisan Policy Center's (BPC) strategic initiatives, where she launched BPC's technology/AI and corporate governance projects. Further, she oversaw several policy teams of over 40 staff members, including housing, energy, tech, infrastructure, and democracy. Before being promoted to vice president, Ms. Nellenbach advocated for energy innovation as a member of BPC Action, co-directed the Commission on Political Reform, and managed BPC's Former Governors Council.

Ms. Nellenbach earned a master's degree in political science from the American University in DC, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut. She served as a Stennis Fellow during the 109th Congress.



Emily Remmel

Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Emily Remmel serves as the Director of Regulatory Affairs for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, where she has worked since early 2017. In her role, Emily works on PFAS, water quality, water reuse, and stormwater among other issues.

She earned a JD in Environmental Law and a certificate in water resources law from Vermont Law School and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law. She also holds a BS and MS in zoology from the University of Oklahoma where she specialized in aquatic ecology and has numerous publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

She also currently teaches water resources advocacy and introduction to water law, both online undergraduate courses at the University of Oklahoma.

**Andrew Sawyers**

Director, Office of Wastewater Management
US Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

Andrew Sawyers is the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) at US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Prior to joining OWM, Mr. Sawyers was the Deputy Director of the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Sawyer was the Program Administrator for the MD Water Quality Financing Administration, managing MD's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and MD's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Mr. Sawyers has a PhD from Johns Hopkins University in Geography and Environmental Engineering.

**Kristina Surfus**

Managing Director, Government Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Kristina Surfus joined the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in 2015 and now serves as Managing Director, Government Affairs. In this role, Ms. Surfus leads NACWA's federal legislative and regulatory teams to support the work of public clean water agencies. Prior to joining NACWA, Ms. Surfus worked on Capitol Hill and as a municipal environmental and economic consultant. Ms. Surfus earned a Masters of Freshwater Science and Policy from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and BS in Environmental Analysis & Policy and International Relations from Boston University.

**Shaina Zarkin-Scott**

Senior Legislative Assistant
Office of US Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-03)
Washington, DC

Shaina Zarkin-Scott has been working for the US House of Representatives for the past 5 years. She currently works as the Senior Legislative Assistant for the Office of US Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez. Ms. Zarkin-Scott earned a BA in Biology at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA.