The Growing Importance of Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation:
Legal, Political, and Technological Perspectives
Monday, February 22, 2016
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (EST), with Reception to Follow*
Columbia Law School’s Jerome Greene Hall, 435 West 116th Street, Rm. JG103,
New York, NY 10027 and Via Teleconference
NY CLE Credit May be Offered**
Please register - RSVP

SYMPOSIUM DESCRIPTION
Renewable energy resources have the potential to transform this country’s energy generation and distribution future. Technological innovations, scientific advancements, and federal policies aimed at promoting national deployment of these resources will help increase the incorporation of wind energy and solar energy into our overall energy mix and further enable distributed generation resources to power urban as well as isolated, “islanded” communities. Federal and state initiatives, such as the Clean Power Plan and New York’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) will also have important ramifications for co-generation and distributed generation. However, certain legal, political, and policy issues could potentially impede the implementation and proliferation of renewable and distributed energy measures. These issues present interesting questions, as well as opportunities, for practicing lawyers, law students, and others with an interest in energy law. Our experts will share their practical business and legal experience with respect to these cutting-edge issues. Please join us for a two-panel symposium co-sponsored by the Renewable, Alternative, and Distributed Energy Resources (RADER) Committee and Columbia Law School’s Environmental Law Society (ELS) to explore these issues of growing importance.

PANEL 1 – RENEWABLE ENERGY PANEL
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

Kimberly E. Diamond, Senior Attorney, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, New York, NY
Kim Diamond is a securitization and project finance lawyer, specializing in renewable energy and pooled energy financing transactions. She has represented investment banks, asset managers, funds, large corporations, government agencies, project owners, and developers in numerous complex multi-million and multi-billion dollar structured finance and project finance transactions, both domestically and internationally. Kim’s numerous articles on renewable energy topics have been published in law reviews, scholarly journals, and national trade publications. Her scholarship has been cited in a recent U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit decision with respect to wind rights. In addition to being Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Congressional Relations and a Vice Chair and immediate past Co-Chair of the Renewable, Alternative, and Distributed Energy Resources Committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, Kim is also Chair of Women of Wind Energy (WoWE)’s New York/New Jersey Chapter and is a Wind Vision Ambassador for the Wind Energy Foundation. She enjoys running 10Ks and half marathons, attending lacrosse games, and cooking with color. Kim is an honors graduate of the University of Michigan and Cornell Law School.

Becky H. Diffen, Senior Associate, Vinson & Elkins LLP, Austin, TX
Becky Diffen is an energy lawyer whose practice focuses on energy transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and project development. She represents developers, private equity firms, investment banks, and a variety of other public and private companies in the renewable energy and power generation industries on complex transactions. She also has experience advising clients on Texas regulatory law. Becky has more than 14 years of experience in the power industry and previously worked as a utility-scale wind power developer. She has been recognized by Chamber USA, Legal 500, and Texas Rising Stars, serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas School of Law (where she teaches a seminar on electric power law), and is co-author of Wind Law, the first wind law treatise, and Lexis Practice Advisor: Renewable Energy. Becky received her B.A. from Carlton College and her J.D. with honors from The University of Texas School of Law.

Ryan Fitzpatrick, Deputy Director, Clean Energy Program, Third Way, Washington, D.C.
Ryan Fitzpatrick leads Third Way’s work on efficient transportation, alternative fuels and vehicles, and a variety of defense and industrial policy issues. His efforts primarily are focused on developing and promoting policy solutions that “thread the needle” to meet America’s climate and economic growth needs. Ryan’s success at developing relationships with stakeholders in advocacy, industry, federal agencies, and on Capitol Hill has enabled Third Way to influence policy debates through written products, direct outreach to policymakers, coalition-building, and educational event. He previously advised former North Carolina Democratic Congressman Heath Shuler on energy, transportation, and environmental policy. Ryan is also a licensed North Carolina real estate broker who rarely passes by an open house without stopping to take a quick peek. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

*Reception sponsored by the ABA’s Section of Environment, Energy & Resources • Debevoise & Plimpton LLP • Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP • Vinson & Elkins LLP
Seth Kaplan, Senior Manager, Regional Government Affairs, EDP Renewables, Boston, MA
Seth enjoys work that benefits the climate and builds a new clean energy economy. Prior to his current position as Senior Manager, Regional Government Affairs for EDP Renewables, a leading, global energy company devoted to value creation, innovation and sustainability with offices across 12 countries, Seth was Vice President for Policy and Climate Advocacy at the Conservation Law Foundation. He currently serves as Board Chair of RENEW – Renewable Energy Northeast. He is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Northeastern University School of Law.

MODERATORS:

Sarah A. W. Fitts, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York, NY
Sarah Fitts is a corporate partner, member of Debevoise’s Mergers & Acquisitions Group, and Co-Chair of the firm’s Energy & Natural Resources Group. She works in the U.S. and internationally, advising clients on M&A transactions, projects, and restructurings, with particular experience in joint ventures and other multi-party governance arrangements. Sarah is recognized as a leading lawyer by Chambers Global (2014–2015), where she is praised for her “sterling reputation” and “her extensive experience in M&A transactional, restructuring and projects work.” She is also recognized in Chambers USA (2015) and The Legal 500 US (2015). Sarah is Chair of the Renewable, Alternative, and Distributed Energy Resources Committee of the ABA’s Section of Energy, Environment, and Resources. She received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Patrick Chen, Law Student, Columbia Law School, Class of 2017
Patrick Chen is internal relations director of Columbia Law School’s Environmental Law Society. His interests are in sustainability, renewable energy, and finance, particularly in the context of international development. In his free time, Patrick enjoys museums and the great outdoors.

PANEL 2 – DISTRIBUTED GENERATION PANEL
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

Jane Batzofin, Ahana Renewables, Director and General Counsel, New York, NY
Jane works with investors and banks to structure investment vehicles. She also manages project and deal closings and assists with acquisition and partnership strategy. She brings years of experience that crosses between finance and alternative energy. At Green Lake Capital, she negotiated Power Purchase Agreements and Land Leases, analyzed projects, and closed debt and tax equity financing. Before that, she was a corporate and finance lawyer in New York, representing investment banks and private equity investors. Jane earned her BA from UCLA and her JD from Brooklyn Law School.

Michael B. Gerrard, Professor and Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School, New York, NY
Michael Gerrard is Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, where he teaches courses on environmental and energy law and directs the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. He is also Chair of the Faculty of Columbia’s Earth Institute. Before joining the Columbia faculty in January 2009, he was partner in charge of the 110-lawyer New York office of Arnold & Porter LLP. He practiced environmental law in New York City full time from 1979 to 2008 and tried numerous cases and argued many appeals in federal and state courts and administrative tribunals. He formerly chaired the ABA’s 10,000-member Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. He has served as a member of the executive committees of the boards of the Environmental Law Institute and the American College of Environmental Lawyers. Michael is author or editor of eleven books, two of which were named Best Law Book of the Year by the Association of American Publishers. His most recent book is Global Climate Change and U.S. Law (with Jody Freeman) (2d ed. 2014).
**Charles B. Howland**, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel, USEPA Region III, Philadelphia, PA

Charlie Howland is a member of the USEPA’s RePowering America’s Land Initiative Rapid Response Team, which encourages development of renewable energy facilities on environmentally impaired lands. His EPA work also includes enforcement and counseling for CERCLA and RCRA cleanups, focusing on contaminated sediment sites and formerly used defense sites. Charlie has also served as general counsel for a renewable energy project firm, where he was responsible for all interconnection and permitting issues for the firm’s U.S. and Canadian wind and solar projects, as well as assessment of various renewable energy portfolio standards and local ISO/RTO regulations to identify project opportunities. He co-teaches a course in energy law at Villanova Law School and teaches a course on regulatory law, science, and policy at the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Master in Law Program. He is Chairman of the Lower Merion Township Planning Commission, as well as the Township’s Storm Water Advisory Management Evaluation Task Force. He is a graduate of Cornell University (B.A. History, 1980) and the Villanova University School of Law (J.D. 1985). In 2003 he completed the Executive Program on Economics and the Environment at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University, and in 2013 participated in the Energy Executive Leadership Institute, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

**MODERATORS:**

**Roger D. Stark**, Principal and CEO, Stark Energy Consulting, Bethesda, MD

Roger Stark has been advising clients for over 25 years on energy project development, finance, and regulatory matters. He has extensive experience in the renewable energy, “cleantech,” and fossil fuel sectors, including project finance and other transactions in more than 30 states and 25 foreign countries. He has counseled clients in a broad range of innovative transactional structures that were industry “firsts” and also has represented clients in energy mergers/acquisitions and public-private partnerships in the U.S. and Latin America. Roger’s energy regulatory and litigation experience includes representing clients before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and state electric utility commissions. In addition to being a Vice Chair and immediate past Co-Chair of the ABA’s Renewable, Alternative, and Distributed Energy Resources Committee, Roger is a member of the Board of Directors of the Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative. He is a *cum laude* graduate of Queens College and Vanderbilt University Law School.

**Anthony Fares**, Law Student, Columbia Law School, Class of 2017

Tony Fares is co-president of Columbia Law School’s Environmental Law Society. He hopes to pursue a career in environmental or energy law, but dabbles in copyright issues as well. His interests also include hiking and reading science fiction novels.

**New York CLE Credit Information**

*Columbia Law School has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board as an Accredited Provider of CLE programs. Under New York State CLE regulations, the live non-transitional CLE Program will provide 3 credit hours that can be applied toward the Areas of Professional Practice requirement. CLE credit is awarded only to New York attorneys for full attendance of the Program in its entirety. Attorneys attending only part of a Program are not eligible for partial credit for it, although they are most welcome to attend it. Attendance is determined by an attorney’s sign-in and sign-out, as shown in the Conference registers. On sign-out, attorneys should also submit their completed Evaluation Form, provided at the Conference. Please note the NYS Certificates of Attendance will be sent to the email address as it appears in the register unless otherwise noted there.*

Application for New York accreditation of this Program for live broadcast participants is currently pending.

**Directions to Columbia Law School’s Jerome Greene Hall**

The Symposium will be held at Jerome Greene Hall, located at 435 West 116th Street. We will be in Room JG103, which is the second room on the left on the first floor when entering from the front entrance.

Via Subway (from Penn Station) – To reach Jerome Greene Hall via subway, take the 1 Train uptown, to the 116th Street – Columbia University stop at 116th Street and Broadway. Then, walk through the gates and across the main campus to arrive at 116th and Amsterdam Avenue. Jerome Greene Hall is on the Northeast corner of this intersection.

Via Bus – There are three options: (1) The M11 bus travels up Amsterdam Avenue and stops at 116th Street and Avenue; (2) The M104 bus travels up Broadway and stops at 116th Street and Broadway; and (3) the M4 bus travels up Madison Avenue, crosses 110th Street, turns up Broadway, and makes a stop at 116th Street.

**Websites**

For information about the Symposium and other RADER Committee events, please visit the ABA’s RADER Committee home page: [http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=NR252300](http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=NR252300)