

DAVID MORTON- KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Chair - International Confederation of
Energy Regulators (ICER)



With over 45 years of experience, David Morton combines a strong business, engineering and accounting background, experience in utility regulation and thorough knowledge of energy policy with an in-depth understanding of how a utility commission operates and the issues and challenges it faces. David was a Commissioner with the BCUC for almost 13 years, first appointed in December 2010, and appointed Chair and CEO in 2015.

David remains actively engaged in national and international energy and regulatory associations. He is the current Chair of the International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). He is also an Executive in Residence, and member of the Advisory Board, of Positive Energy, a University of Ottawa research program that aims to strengthen public confidence in energy policy, regulation, and decision-making. He is also an advisor to the Public Utilities Board of the Province of Manitoba. He also heads up the Canadian Energy Reliability Council, an educational organization that highlights reliability issues in Canada's energy system.

David has regularly participated in speaking engagements and international training opportunities to regulators around the world, includes engagements with regulators and governments in Botswana, Macedonia, Zambia, Namibia, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Bosnia and Bangladesh.

David is the former Chair of the Canadian Association of Members of Public Utility Tribunals (CAMPUT), an ICER member. He was the recipient of CAMPUT's 2023 award for Excellence and Innovation.

DR. MARSHA ATHERLEY- IKECHI

Executive Director, Organisation of
Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR)

Dr. Atherley-Ikechi brings over 2 decades of expertise in utility regulation and sustainable development across Caribbean small island states. As OOCUR's Executive Director, she leads regional efforts to strengthen regulatory frameworks and advance clean energy transitions while ensuring reliable access to electricity, water, and telecommunications services.

Her career has focused on integrating consumer protection and fair competition concerns in the modernization of utility systems through technically sound analysis, strategic policy development and stakeholder engagement. Dr. Atherley-Ikechi has successfully led teams in securing critical infrastructure investments and translating innovative solutions into practical outcomes for Caribbean communities.

She holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering and a M.Sc. in renewable energy management and is recognized for her hands-on approach to empowering regional regulators and building resilient, efficient, and sustainable utility services.



APOLLO KNIGHTS

Director, National Telecommunications
Regulatory Commission (NTRC)



Mr. Knights has spent over two decades working in the areas of telecommunications development, regulation, and policy in his home country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Prior to joining the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) as its Director in 2002 he was the Telecommunications Officer in the Ministry of Communications and Works and was deeply involved in the liberalization process of the Telecommunications markets within the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Mr. Knights believes in practical and innovative solutions to our regulatory challenges. He currently serves on the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC) working group for the Caribbean. He sits on the steering committees of the Caribbean Digital Transformation Project (CarDTP) and the Anos Vale modern city Project. He also serves as a Board Director of a local financial institution.

He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in Telecommunications and Networking and an MBA in International Business.

NAOMI WATKINS

L e g a l O f f i c e r (A c t g .) – O f f i c e o f U t i l i t i e s
R e g u l a t i o n

Naomi is an attorney-at-law with a master's degree in technology, Media and Telecommunications Law from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), a Legal Education Certificate from the Norman Manley Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London. She also holds the Certified International Privacy Professional/ Europe (CIPP/E) certification. Naomi's professional affiliations include the Jamaican Bar Association and the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) membership.

During her studies at QMUL, Naomi conducted research in the areas of technology, media, and telecommunications law, notably artificial intelligence, cyberspace jurisdiction, data protection and information security.

Naomi is a self-avowed privacy professional and an advocate for individuals taking control of their data. This is especially true given that personal data is the foundation of a multibillion-dollar global industry and is being monetised in myriad ways, often without consideration for the security of the data subjects.



RICARDO CASE

Senior Vice President - Shared Services,
Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. (JPS)



Ricardo is a champion of high-performance teams and values-driven leadership, emphasizing the importance of developing others and driving results.

He has over 30 years of proven leadership, technical expertise, and a passion for innovation. Throughout his career, he has successfully led major initiatives in engineering, system operations, emergency restoration, and enterprise transformation.

As Director – Engineering Services, Ricardo spearheaded JPS “Grid of the Future” strategy, driving advancements in digital grid technology, renewable integration initiative, and GIS modernization.

He holds a Bachelors of Engineering Degree in Electrical Power Systems from University Of Technology, Jamaica and a Masters in Management Information Systems from University of the West Indies.

A registered Professional Engineer and certified Project Management Professional, he has demonstrated the ability to address complex business challenges in a strategic and methodical approach.

Ricardo is a proud Ambassador and supporter of Brand Jamaica and enjoys spending quality time with his wife Nichole, his daughters Taylor and Courteney; and giving back to his alma mater, Kingston College.

TRISHANN RUSSELL

Manager, Legal Affairs, Cable & Wireless
Jamaica Limited

Trishann Russell is the Manager of Legal Affairs at Cable & Wireless Jamaica Limited, providing legal support to the Jamaica, Anguilla, Montserrat, and St. Kitts & Nevis markets. Her career spans private practice and public service, with expertise in regulatory compliance, corporate governance, and telecommunications law. She has a strong interest in leveraging legal frameworks to advance infrastructure development and universal access initiatives.

Before joining Cable & Wireless, Trishann served as the Acting Corporate Secretary and the first Legal Officer for the Universal Service Fund Jamaica and later worked with the Special Economic Zone Authority in the development of Jamaica's Special Economic Zones.

A graduate of the University of the West Indies, Mona, she was called to the Jamaican Bar in 2015 and earned her MBA from the Mona School of Business in 2023. Outside of work, she is a devoted wife and mother who enjoys tracking hurricanes and organizing game nights.



BRIAN A. P. REECE

C h i e f E x e c u t i v e O f f i c e r – B a r b a d o s F a i r
T r a d i n g C o m m i s s i o n



Brian Reece is the Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Fair Trading Commission. He holds an M.Sc. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Manchester and a Bachelor of Laws Degree from UWI along with the Legal Education Certificate from the Norman Manley Law School. As a practicing Attorney-at-Law Brian specialised in Conveyancing, Energy and Corporate Finance matters before joining the FTC. Brian also has considerable technical experience in industry having been employed as the Safety and Environment Manager at a public utility company for seventeen (17) years and is a Member of the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment of the UK as well as a certified ISO Management System auditor. He has previously chaired the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health of the Ministry of Labour in Barbados advising the Minister with responsibility for Labour. In addition to his professional pursuits, Brian is involved in fitness activities and trail running.

ARACELI CASTANEDA

Director of Leadership Studies / Business
Development – Public Utility Research Center
University of Florida

Ms. Araceli Castaneda is the director of Leadership Studies and director of Business Development of the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida (PURC). Ms. Castaneda is responsible for conducting training on leadership topics, developing client relationships and managing business negotiations. Since she joined PURC in February 2003, Ms. Castaneda has held different positions. She has been PURC's assistant director, director of the PURC/World Bank International Training Program on Utility Regulation and Strategy, and has coordinated numerous programs and research projects in the U.S. and abroad. She has led international leadership workshops involving over 80 countries and more than 650 participants. Clients in her customized leadership work and coaching practice include Northwestern Energy and the Florida Public Service Commission in the United States, and Aqualectra, the Turks & Caicos Islands Telecommunications Commission and the Uganda Communications Commission abroad.

Ms. Castaneda received the University of Florida campus-wide International Educator of the Year Award in 2011, was selected to participate in the University of Florida Leadership Academy in 2007-2008, and was the recipient of the University of Florida campus-wide Superior Accomplishment Award in the Administrative/Supervisory category in 2006.

Ms. Castaneda's past professional experience includes being a team leader for an international insurance company, English language teacher, and interpreter and translator.

Ms. Castaneda was born in the Canary Islands. She studied executive leadership at Harvard University, and is a certified neuro-linguistic programming master practitioner by the NLP University of California in Santa Cruz. She also studied at the University of Rouen, France, obtained her Master's from the University of La Laguna, Spain and completed her post-graduate studies at the University of Salamanca, Spain.



HUGH GRANT

P r e s i d e n t , J a m a i c a P u b l i c S e r v i c e C o m p a n y L t d .



With more than twenty-five years in the utility business, Hugh Grant brings strong technical and leadership experience as well as extensive industry knowledge. Prior to joining JPS, he was a senior executive at Consolidated Edison Company of New York (Con Edison), the energy company serving the nine million people of New York City and Westchester and leading the clean energy transition.

During his time at Con Edison, Grant served in a variety of positions with increased responsibility and impact on the company. He most recently served as the vice president of Steam Operations at Con Edison. In this capacity, he was responsible for managing the day-to-day operations and the P&L of the district steam business in Manhattan, a system that has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of any energy system in New York City.

Prior to this assignment, Grant was the vice president of Substation Operations and was responsible for the more than one hundred electric transmission and distribution substations throughout the service territory serving a customer demand of over 13,000MW.

During this exciting time of change and transformation in our industry, Grant is positioned to build upon the work that's been done at JPS to prepare the company for the future. His proven track record of developing and executing strategic plans as well as demonstrating an unwavering focus on safety, system reliability, customer satisfaction, stakeholder engagement, and continuous improvement to achieve results will serve JPS and our customers exceptionally well. Grant's leadership style creates a sense of belonging and accountability to the business while fostering an inclusive environment.

Grant holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Florida International University in Miami, Florida, a Master of Science degree in information systems from Pace University and a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University.

Grant enjoys running half marathons and mentoring youth in STEM organizations to create a pipeline for the energy industry. He serves on the boards of The Fresh Air Fund, the American Association of Blacks in Energy and the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC). In addition, he is a member of the Generation Council and the Steering Committee of the Electric Power Research Institute, and a Vice President of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ).

SORAYADEBIE JHAGROE, MSC.,

R e g u l a t o r y S p e c i a l i s t – E n e r g y A u t h o r i t y o f
S u r i n a m e

Sorayadebie Jhagroe is the Regulatory Specialist at the Energy Authority of Suriname, focusing on Economic Regulation and Supervision, and is particularly interested in the Caribbean's energy transition. She holds a Master of Science degree in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and has expertise at the intersection of regulation, climate policy, and sustainable energy development. Regionally and internationally, she serves in leadership roles, including as a World Energy Council Future Energy Leader, the first Caribbean member of this global Leadership program, and Global Ambassador for Blue Planet Alliance. She has been recognized as a Caribbean 35 Under 35 Gamechanger and received the CARICOM/CDB Women in Sustainable Energy Youth Leader Award in 2022. Soraya has represented Suriname and the wider region in high-level fora. She's at the EAS for almost 5 years, and is currently finalizing research on the legal dimensions of the climate-energy nexus and renewable energy policy in the Caribbean.



MARLON COOPER, B.SC. (HONS), CISA, CRISC, ELI/MP

C E O S y m p t a i C o n s u l t i n g L i m i t e d



A seasoned leader with over 25 years of experience in the realm of Data Analysis and Analytics, IT Security, Digital Transformation, Anti-Money Laundering and related areas, Marlon Cooper brings a blend of understated gravitas, business acumen, and a high level of energy to every endeavour. Marlon is a critical thinker adept at envisioning the bigger picture and navigating the intricate steps required to achieve it.

As CEO of Symptai Consulting Limited, one of the Caribbean's largest homegrown IT Consulting companies in the English-speaking Caribbean, specializing in Cyber and Information Security, Digital and Operational Transformation, Data Privacy Implementation and Compliance, and Anti-money Laundering Compliance, Marlon plays a pivotal role in driving the company's strategic direction. Guided by a results-oriented mindset, he is focused on strengthening and expanding Symptai's regional footprint through strategic partnerships, while establishing Symptai as a leading authority across the diverse domains of its expertise.

A graduate of the University of the West Indies, Marlon holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Accounting, and certifications, including Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC) certification. Additionally, Marlon is a Master Practitioner in Energy Leadership (ELI/MP). Committed to people development and expanding leadership capabilities, he remains passionate about fostering personal and professional growth.

Marlon has authored numerous articles targeting audiences across diverse domains. Notably, he delivered an address on digital transformation and building cyber resilience at Canto 2022 and 2023. His extensive speaking engagements encompass Digital Transformation, Cyber Security, Anti-Money Laundering compliance, Regulatory Compliance, Leadership, and the execution of business strategy.

Outside the professional sphere, Marlon embraces his roles as an avid sports enthusiast, a lifelong learner, and a devoted father to his five children. While he possesses a sociable nature, his most cherished moments revolve around spending quality time with his family.

KALIFA CLARKE

R e s e a r c h O f f i c e r – F a i r T r a d i n g C o m m i s s i o n ,
J a m a i c a

Kalifa Clarke is a Research Officer at the Fair Trading Commission, where she conducts research to assess the competitiveness of key sectors within the Jamaican economy. A proud alumna of the Ardenne High School, she holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and Statistics from the University of the West Indies, where she developed a keen interest in the field of Development Economics.

Kalifa is passionate about driving sustainable development through evidence-based policy and community initiatives. This commitment extends to her work with the Global Shapers Kingston Hub, a network of young changemakers focused on creating meaningful local impact.

Outside of work, Kalifa is an avid reader who finds inspiration in historical fiction, a genre she values for its ability to illuminate present-day issues through stories of the past. Her favourite book, *Against the Loveless World* by Susan Abulhawa, reflects her interest in global perspectives and the complexities of the human experience.



SHAVANNE SMITH

R e s e a r c h O f f i c e r – F a i r T r a d i n g C o m m i s s i o n ,
J a m a i c a



Shavanne Smith is responsible for conducting research and preparing analytical reports on competition issues, investigating complaints under the Fair Competition Act and participating in educational outreach among other things. A proud alumnus of Knox College, he was raised in rural Jamaica, an experience that shaped his strong sense of community and national pride.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Technology. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Economics at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

Shavanne volunteers with the CHASE Fund, reflecting his commitment to public service and youth development. Passionate about research and policy, he aims to contribute meaningfully to Jamaica's economic growth and development. Outside of his work, he is a sports enthusiast and lifelong learner who values teamwork, discipline and resilience.

NAJUEQUA BARNES, BSC., LL.B., MSC., CIPM

Chief Privacy Officer and Managing Director
– United Consulting International Limited

Najuequa Barnes, BSc., LL.B., MSc., CIPM, ISO/IEC 27001:2002 Lead Auditor, certified in AI Security and Governance, and Data Security Posture Management (DSPM) Certificate is the Chief Privacy Officer and Managing Director of United Consulting International Limited, where she leads transformative data privacy initiatives across Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. With expertise developed at PricewaterhouseCoopers in GDPR compliance, she now champions tailored frameworks that align with Jamaica's Data Protection Act, 2020. She has pioneered dynamic, hands-on data privacy programmes that transform staff into strategic champions of compliance and cultural change.

A sought-after speaker, Najuequa recently served as a Panellist and Privacy Chair Member at the prestigious Privacy Symposium in Venice, Italy, contributing to global discussions on AI, governance, and compliance. Beyond consulting, she has lectured in law at the tertiary level, developed curricula, and advised international bodies including the World Bank, UNDP, and IDB on international development issues.

A Chevening Scholar and Governor-General's Award for Excellence in academics and community service recipient, she is also the founder of the Mindfulness Jamaica Initiative.



STANLEY G. SMELLIE

R e g u l a t o r y P o l i c y S p e c i a l i s t – O f f i c e o f
U t i l i t i e s R e g u l a t i o n



Stanley is a leading authority in sustainable energy and utility regulation, with a proven track record shaping national policy, regulatory frameworks, and innovation in the Caribbean energy sector. At Jamaica's Office of Utilities Regulation, he plays a pivotal role in advancing electricity sector modernization, guiding the integration of distributed energy resources, and enhancing cost-efficiency through data-driven oversight. His regulatory leadership supports a broader vision of transparency, resilience, and sustainability in national infrastructure.

Complementing his regulatory work, Stanley has made significant academic contributions through his leadership at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona. There, he spearheaded the energy management program, delivering impactful energy conservation initiatives, renewable energy projects, and policy research that advanced institutional sustainability goals. He continues to serve as an adjunct lecturer at UWI, teaching Master's-level courses in sustainable energy systems, energy auditing, and energy economics, combining academic rigour with real-world applications.

Currently pursuing a PhD in Sustainable Development at UWI, Stanley's research explores the use of data to address technical and policy challenges in the integration of renewable and distributed energy into power systems. As a visiting researcher at the Centre for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Surrey, he further deepened his global perspective on climate resilience and low-carbon innovation.

A Commonwealth Scholar and recipient of the Association of Energy Engineers' "Legends in Energy" award, Stanley is also a Certified Energy Manager with extensive consultancy experience across Jamaica and the Caribbean. His work includes contributing to Jamaica's National Energy Policy, setting energy efficiency standards, and developing a regional building code to promote sustainable infrastructure.

In addition to his technical and policy achievements, Stanley is active in civic leadership through the Lions Club of Mona, where he has served as President and Secretary, reinforcing his commitment to national service.

He remains committed to advancing a climate-resilient, data-driven energy transition, supporting the region's strategic goals for sustainable development and long-term value creation.

SASHANA D. MILLER

Senior Regulatory Analyst – Office of
Utilities Regulation

Sashana Miller is an Economist with more than eighteen (18) years of experience providing technical analysis and financial services in the regulation of water, sewerage, and electricity, as well as in service costing, and project evaluation. She currently serves as a Senior Regulatory Analyst at the Office of Utilities Regulation, where she leads teams in developing, reviewing and designing rate structures to strengthen the sustainability of the water and sewerage sectors. Her work also supports the creation of policies and programs informed by both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. At the heart of her career is a passion for designing efficient regulatory framework that balances economic growth with the public interest. Sashana holds an MSc. in Economics and Accounting from the University of the West Indies Mona, along with advanced certifications in Project Management, Data Management, Leadership, Tariff Designs, Financial Technologies, and Cryptocurrency Trading. She is particularly committed to applying modern financial tools and techniques to promote develop and expand Jamaica's water sector transparently and efficiently. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Sashana is an entrepreneur, a devoted mother, and an individual who inspires confidence in those she works with.



L. NIGEL BURGESS

D i r e c t o r o f E n e r g y , R e g u l a t o r y A u t h o r i t y o f
B e r m u d a



Nigel Burgess is the Director of Energy at the Regulatory Authority of Bermuda ("the RA"), with responsibility for managing the Regulation Department which includes the financial, economic and technical regulation for the electricity and fuels sectors. Nigel is also responsible for ensuring effective regulation is developed and executed to fulfil the RA's legislative mandate, as outlined in the Regulatory Authority Act 2011, Electricity Act 2016, and Fuels Act 2022, the RA's Work Plan and the RA's Strategic Plan.

Nigel has been instrumental in shaping the regulatory framework for Bermuda's electricity sector and has helped to pioneer the Bermuda's roadmap to a cleaner energy future as the RA's technical lead for the island's first Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") released in 2019. Currently, he is spearheading the development of a new IRP and the regulatory framework for Bermuda's fuels sector.

He has also led a wide range of strategic initiatives, including retail tariff reviews for 2020-26, the preparation of Bulk Generation Procurement Rules, feasibility studies for both offshore wind and solar PV developments and the launching of the region's first offshore wind development and offshore floating solar PV solicitation.