



PA Chamber of Business and Industry
417 Walnut Street, Harrisburg PA
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
– Luke Bernstein, PA Chamber President and CEO
- 10:05 a.m. **Introduction of Keynote**
– Daniel Amate, Associate Principal, GZA GeoEnvironmental
- 10:05 to 10:45 a.m. **Administration Keynote: DEP Updates and Priorities and Q&A with PA Chamber President, Luke Bernstein**
– Jessica Shirley, Interim Acting Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
– Luke Bernstein, PA Chamber, President and CEO
- 10:45 a.m. **Introduction of Panel Discussion**
– Charles Boruchowitz, Government Affairs Manager, Bentley Systems
- 10:48 to 11:25 a.m. **Panel Discussion: Regulators and Regulated**
– Ezra Thrush, Policy Director, DEP
– John Ryder, Deputy Secretary for Field Operations, DEP
– David Raphael, Partner, K & L Gates
– Stephen Matzura, Shareholder and Chair, Environmental, Workplace Safety and Utilities, Saxton & Stump
- 11:27 a.m. **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**
– Michelle M. Skjoldal, Member, Eckert Seamans
- 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Legislative Keynote: The Push for Permitting Reform**
– Kristin Phillips Hill, Pennsylvania State Senate

About the Speakers



Luke Bernstein, PA Chamber, President and CEO

Luke Bernstein is president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. A seasoned financial, government, and public policy professional, Luke came to the organization in 2022 with more than 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors.

Before leading the PA Chamber, Luke was most recently executive vice president, chief operations and technology officer at Orrstown Financial Services. He had served as Orrstown's corporate spokesperson since 2017.

He was previously senior vice president of external affairs at the Pennsylvania Bankers Association from 2015 to 2017 and deputy chief of staff for former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett from 2011 to 2015.

In addition to his executive leadership roles in the private sector and state government, Luke has experience working at the federal level, as a former appointed advisor in the Administration of President George W. Bush and as an aide in the U.S. Senate. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and policy studies from Dickinson College, where he also served as an adjunct professor.

Luke also completed the Duke Leadership Program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a very active member of his community, serving on numerous boards and as a youth sports coach.



Jessica Shirley, DEP Interim Acting Secretary

Currently serving as the Interim Acting Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), Jessica Shirley plays a pivotal role in the guidance of the department in its mission to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's environment while fostering sustainable and equitable practices. Jessica arrives to the role of Acting Secretary with extensive experience and knowledge within the agency. Most recently, Jessica served as the Executive Deputy Secretary overseeing all programs from February 2023 to October 2023.

Secretary Jessica was the first appointed Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator at the PA DEP from May 2022 to February 2023 and in this position, she oversaw the implementation of the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Jessica ensured the Department maximized funds for the betterment of Pennsylvania's environment, economy, residents, and communities. Jessica previously served as the Policy Director from May 2016 to April 2022 and in this position, she helped develop groundbreaking executive orders related to PFAS, climate change, energy conservation and sustainability in Commonwealth operations, and environmental justice. Jessica was involved in leading Pennsylvania's first ever Litter Action Plan which received several awards and national recognition. In her earlier role as the Executive Policy Specialist from January 2010 to February 2011, Jessica was a trusted advisor in various policy areas and served as the Policy Office liaison for multiple advisory committees.

Jessica's educational background includes a master's degree in Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University and a bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



John Ryder, Deputy Secretary for Field Operations, DEP

John Ryder serves as the Deputy Secretary for Field Operations for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He oversees all six of the Department's Regional Offices, the Emergency Response & Vector Management Programs and the Regional Permit Coordination Office. John has been with the Department since 2000. Previously John served as the Director of the Department's Bureau of District Oil and Gas Operations. The Bureau oversaw all permitting, inspection, compliance, and enforcement associated with the Oil and Gas industry across Pennsylvania. He has also served as an Operations Chief and Water Quality Specialist Supervisor with the Eastern District Oil and Gas Office where he managed a diverse team of environmental professionals challenged with regulating unconventional oil and gas related exploration activities. Prior to that, John was an Aquatic Biologist for the Department's North Central Field Office where he participated in a wide variety of regulatory, permitting, and vector program work. John has also previously worked with Penn State University, the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish, The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

John received his B.S. degree in Fisheries Biology from Mansfield University and has also done graduate work at Penn State University.



Ezra Thrush, Policy Director, DEP

Thrush serves as DEP's Policy Director. Ezra has a widely respected expertise on the Commonwealth's environmental policy, climate, and conservation issues. His extensive policy knowledge and understanding of on-the-ground issues have effectively advanced environmental progress across the state, all while forming close working relationships with legislators, policymakers, and stakeholders of both major parties as well as federal and municipal officials. Ezra is particularly proud of his background securing clean energy and conservation investments in the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and two iterations of the federal Farm Bill. At the state level, Ezra helped pass legislation to establish the Commonwealth's new Clean Streams Fund, historic increases for the Growing Greener program, alongside numerous clean energy and climate policies. Ezra holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University. He is an avid outdoorsman and active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, National Outdoor Leadership School, and the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.



David Raphael, Partner, K & L Gates

David Raphael is a partner in the environmental, land and natural resources practice of the firm's Harrisburg office. Prior to joining K&L Gates, David served as Chief Counsel of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) where he provided legal counsel to the Secretary and executive staff of the DEP. In this role, he oversaw a statewide team who represented the department on a variety of environmental compliance, litigation and transactional matters. His experience as an environmental practitioner – both in the public and private sectors – spans more than 25 years.

David represents clients in environmental litigation matters before the Environmental Hearing Board, various state and federal courts, and administrative boards. He also provides environmental counsel on complex transactions and a wide range of environmental compliance issues, including the implementation of environmental compliance and audit policies. David was selected by Chambers USA (2017-2023) as one of Pennsylvania's leading environmental lawyers. He was also recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® for Environmental Law and Litigation-Environmental.



Stephen Matzura, Shareholder and Chair, Environmental, Workplace Safety and Utilities, Saxton & Stump

Stephen J. Matzura, Esq. is Chair of Saxton & Stump's Environmental, Workplace Safety and Utilities Group. He advises and advocates for industrial, commercial and municipal clients on a broad range of environmental, health, and safety (EHS) issues, including water quality, stormwater and stormwater fees, water use, wastewater and sewage, wetlands, hazardous waste, storage tanks, hazardous building materials, air quality and airborne contaminants. His work with clients has spanned various industry sectors, such as energy, oil and gas, manufacturing, food and beverage, metals, construction and land development, auto dealerships, education and healthcare.

Specifically, Steve helps clients with EHS compliance, permitting, auditing, self-disclosures and defending enforcement actions, including addressing issues with agencies and river basin commissions (e.g., EPA, DEP, OSHA, SRBC, DRBC). He advises clients on the environmental implications of business and real estate transactions, including liability protection and remediation. Steve also litigates matters before state and federal courts and administrative hearing boards, including the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) and Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC). He also actively writes and speaks about environmental law and workplace safety, including as co-author for a chapter titled "Water Quality" in the Pennsylvania Bar Institute's authoritative desk reference, Pennsylvania Environmental Law and Practice (10th edition) and as contributing author for the "Soil and Groundwater" chapter in the Environmental Law Institute's multi-volume treatise, Law of Environmental Protection (next edition forthcoming 2022).

Steve was previously a member at a Harrisburg-based law firm. Before that, he was an associate at K&L Gates LLP in Harrisburg. He earned his J.D. from Widener University Commonwealth Law School in 2010, magna cum laude, receiving an Environmental Law Certificate from the Law and Government Institute and serving as Internal Managing Editor of the Widener Law Journal. While studying at Widener University, Steve received a number of awards including Outstanding Law and Government Student Award, Outstanding Service Award, Outstanding Student Article and the Pro Bono Internship and Scholarship from the Pennsylvania Bar Association for Environmental and Energy Law. Steve earned his B.A. from Bucknell University in 2007, cum laude, majoring in both political science and geography and achieving The Bucknell Prize in Geography as well as the Patriot League Football Academic Honor Roll in 2004 and 2005.



Kristin Phillips Hill, Pennsylvania State Senate

Kristin Phillips-Hill was elected to serve York County residents in the Pennsylvania Senate in 2018 and subsequently re-elected in 2022.

As a former small business owner and school board director, Kristin has made government efficiency a point of emphasis throughout her public service.

Kristin authored eight new laws as a senator, including election reform, increased penalties on human trafficking offenses, and landmark health care reform.

She continues to oppose new taxes and supports legislation calling for greater reform and transparency of government at all levels but starting at the state level where she serves.

Kristin takes her responsibility to manage taxpayer dollars very seriously. She does not participate in the state's pension program or health insurance program, and she commutes to and from Harrisburg using her own vehicle without accepting mileage reimbursement. She challenges the status quo by sponsoring several bills to change the way Harrisburg operates by offering solutions to the state's lobbying laws.

During the 2023-24 session, she was elected by her colleagues to serve in leadership as the Senate Majority Caucus Chair.

Kristin serves as the vice chair of the Senate Communications & Technology Committee and is a member of the Senate Aging & Youth, Appropriations, Banking & Insurance, and State Government committees. She co-chairs the Manufacturing Caucus and the YMCA Caucus. She is the Senate Republican appointee to the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority.

Kristin earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public policy from Rutgers University.

Kristin resides in York Township with her husband Rick. They have three grown children: Victoria, Gavin and Spencer.



For more information on this event, contact Gretchen McDonel,
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