

# WWEMA Virtual 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Speaker Bios

## *Navigating Unchartered Waters – Steering Your Business to Success*

November 5-6, 2020



**Anirban Basu, Chairman & CEO**  
Sage Policy Group, Inc.

Anirban Basu is Chairman & CEO of Sage Policy Group, Inc., an economic and policy consulting firm headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland with an office in Indonesia. The firm provides strategic analytical services to energy suppliers, law firms, medical systems, government agencies, and real estate developers among others. In 2014, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan appointed him Chair of the Maryland Economic Development Commission. He also serves as Chairman of the Baltimore County Economic Advisory Committee. He is also the Chief Economist to Associated Builders and Contractors and Chief Economic Advisor to the Construction Financial Management Association. He serves or has served similar functions for Visit Baltimore, Maryland Realtors, and Marcum, LLC. He lectures at Johns Hopkins University in Global Strategy and has also taught international economics, urban economics, micro- and macroeconomics at Hopkins. His radio show can be heard weekdays on 88.1FM, WYPR, Baltimore.

In both 2007 and 2016, the *Daily Record* newspaper selected Mr. Basu as one of Maryland's 50 most influential people. The *Baltimore Business Journal* named him one of the region's 20 most powerful business leaders in 2010. Mr. Basu has been on many boards over time, including First Mariner Bank, the Baltimore City Public School System, Port Discovery, the Baltimore School for the Arts, and Union Memorial Hospital. He is currently on the boards of the University of Maryland School of Law, St. Mary's College, the University System of Maryland Foundation, the Center for Emerging Media, the Lyric Opera House, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore School System.

Mr. Basu earned his B.S. in Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1990. He earned his Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and his Master's in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. His Juris Doctor was earned at the University of Maryland School of Law. His doctoral work is in health economics and has taken place at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



**John Collins, Chief Executive Officer**  
JCM Industries, Inc.  
*Incoming 2021 WWEMA Chair*

John Collins is Chief Executive Officer of JCM Industries. With decades of experience in the water and wastewater manufacturing industry, he serves as JCM's delegate to the Water and Sewer Distributors Association and is active in the American Water Works Association, having served on the Texas Chapter's Manufacturers Associates Committee. John also serves on the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee and is former Chairman of the Board of the nonprofit Sheltered Workshop. He is active in the Lions Club, Challenger League, and Special Olympics. He graduated from Steven F. Austin University with a major in communications.



**Lucy Dadayan, Senior Research Associate**  
Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, Urban Institute

Lucy Dadayan is a senior research associate with the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she is leading the State Tax and Economic Review project. Before joining Urban, Dadayan was a senior research scientist with the Rockefeller Institute of Government, where she wrote extensively on state and local government fiscal issues, including state government tax revenue trends, personal income taxes, tax revenue forecasts, property taxes, gambling tax revenue, government employment, spending on social services, education spending, and state spending on children's programs.

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### Lucy Dadayan (continued)

She has authored or coauthored four chapters for the *Book of the States* (2015, 2016, and 2017 editions). Dadayan's work is frequently cited in major news media, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Bond Buyer*, *Bloomberg*, *The Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *The Boston Globe*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Dadayan is often invited to present at conferences and provide testimonies for state government agencies. She has been a reviewer for the peer-reviewed journals *Public Budgeting and Finance*, *State and Local Government Review*, and the *Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research*. In addition, she is a reviewer for the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, one of the longest-standing continuously running scientific conferences.

Dadayan holds an M.A. in Public Policy and Affairs and a Ph.D in Informatics, both from the State University of New York at Albany.



### Michael Dimitrou, President

WRT LLC

*WWEMA Virtual 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Program Chair*  
*2020 WWEMA Chair*

Mike Dimitriou is President of WRT, Westminster, Colorado, and has been active in WWEMA for more than 30 years, having served on the Board, as Chairman of the Legislative/Regulatory Committee, as Chairman of the WWEMA Investment Committee, and as the association's representative to multiple U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Federal Advisory Committees and to the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. In his career, Mike has been at the forefront in the introduction of new and innovative water treatment businesses to the water industry. His unique experience includes ozone, membranes, thermal water treatment and reuse, nutrient removal, and membrane bio reactors. Mike has been active in multiple industry associations, including serving as President of the International Ozone Association and serving on the Board, Executive Committee, and as a Council Chairman of the American Water Works Association. Mike holds multiple patents in water technologies and has authored more than 100 articles and publications on water treatment and water reuse.



### Vanessa M. Leiby, Executive Director

Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association

Vanessa M. Leiby, the Executive Director of the Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA), has a B.S. and M.S. in Zoology, with emphasis in aquatic ecology and aquatic toxicology respectively, from The Ohio State University. An environmental scientist and policy analyst, she has over 30 years' experience in aquatic ecology, aquatic toxicology, drinking water and wastewater regulation development, water and wastewater technologies, innovation, enforcement, security, water and energy efficiency, and state drinking water and wastewater programs. She is responsible for overall management of the Association and leads the advocacy efforts for WWEMA with a focus on the Administration, Congress, and key Federal agencies. She maintains an extensive industry network at the national, state, and local levels to connect members to opportunities as well as industry thought leaders. Prior to joining WWEMA in 2014, Ms. Leiby was a Principal for 11 years at The Cadmus Group, an environmental consulting firm providing mission support work to EPA's Office of Water. In that capacity, she provided extensive support to EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water on projects related to water and energy efficiency, source water protection, regulation implementation, Buy American provisions of ARRA, and water system security. She was the Principal Investigator for the Water Research Foundation project (#4223) *Energy Efficiency Best Practices for North American Drinking Water Utilities* and was the lead author on the first *Water Sector Security Plan* working in cooperation with EPA and the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to joining Cadmus, Ms. Leiby was, for 10 years, the Executive Director of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. In that position, she was instrumental in the 1996 reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act and participated in discussions and negotiations on key aspects of the Bioterrorism Act that related to the water sector.

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**Gene Marks, CPA, President and CEO**  
The Marks Group PC

A past columnist for both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, Gene now writes regularly for *The Hill*; *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; *Forbes, Inc., Magazine*; *Entrepreneur Magazine*; and *The Guardian*. Gene has written five books on business management, specifically geared towards small- and medium-sized companies. His latest best-selling books are *In God We Trust, Everyone Else Pays Cash*, and *The 2020 Small Business Book Of Lists – Volumes 1 and 2*. His most recent is [Want More Cash? 100+ Ideas And Strategies For Increasing Your Company's Cash Flow This Year](#). Nationally, Gene appears regularly on MSNBC and Fox News as well as The John Batchelor Show and SiriusXM's

Wharton Business Channel where he talks about the financial, economic, and technology issues that affect business leaders today. Through his keynotes and breakout sessions, Gene helps business owners, executives, and managers understand the political, economic, and technological trends that will affect their companies and—most importantly—the actions they can take to continue to grow and profit. Gene owns and operates the Marks Group PC, a highly successful ten-person firm that provides technology and consulting services to small- and medium-sized businesses. Prior to starting the Marks Group PC, Gene, a Certified Public Accountant, spent nine years in the entrepreneurial services arm of the international consulting firm KPMG in Philadelphia where he was a Senior Manager.



**Eric Sapirstein, Founder & President**  
ENS Resources

After leadership positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington-based consulting firms, Eric Sapirstein founded ENS Resources, Inc., in 1986. For more than three decades, his firm has focused on legislative and regulatory affairs consulting for public and private sector interests engaged in water sector policy issues. His work on behalf of local and regional governments as well as national organizations that serve the public's interests in safe and reliable water supplies is a centerpiece of the firm's priorities. From water infrastructure financing to developing policy responses to address emerging needs of climate resiliency, his firm has worked with policymakers in Congress, the federal bureaucracy, and throughout the stakeholder community to fashion solutions that deliver improved water quality and supply.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sapirstein has been a recognized leader in environmental protection and innovative energy policy issues. Prior to establishing ENS, Mr. Sapirstein was a Policy and Governmental Affairs Analyst with JSCF, Inc. He focused on regulatory and legislative initiatives related to Appropriations, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and forestry management.

Before founding ENS Resources, Inc. and working on behalf of public and private sector clients, Mr. Sapirstein represented the EPA before Congress. He advised senior Agency officials on strategies regarding waste management, radioactive materials, and clean water policy issues, and he represented the Agency with members of Congress, Congressional staff, and federal and state agencies. Mr. Sapirstein received two Special Achievement Awards, recognizing superior work that helped ensure passage of the Superfund Act.

Mr. Sapirstein earned a Master's of Public Administration (MPA), with a concentration in public finance, budgeting, and urban administration, from The George Washington University. He was nominated and selected to compete as a Presidential Management Intern. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Boston University.