

[Luis F. Arandia, Jr., Partner, Barnes & Thornburg, LLP](#)



Luis F. Arandia, Jr. navigates complex international trade law and regulations, safeguarding client interests across import compliance, export controls, economic sanctions, and trade remedies. Luis helps importers and exporters navigate regulatory challenges with precision, implementing a solution-oriented approach that frequently minimizes risks and maximizes opportunities across diverse industries. He advocates for clients before the federal agencies that enforce U.S. international trade regulations to ensure compliance and competitiveness across global markets.

For imports, Luis's experience spans critical customs compliance issues ranging from tariff classification to forced labor (UFLPA) and supply chain issues. Luis advises importers on enforcement issues before U.S. Customs and Border Protection and litigates before the U.S. Court of International Trade and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Luis also advises on U.S. export controls and sanctions laws, including Export Administration Regulations (EAR), International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), and regulations administered by OFAC. He guides clients through enforcement actions, conducts investigations, and designs compliance programs. Luis is a member of the team that is the largest export control monitorship in history. Regularly speaking across the country, Luis is passionate about teaching the trade community about new and emerging topics. Luis's international trade articles have appeared in various legal publications, including *Law360* and the *Texas Bar Journal*.

[Edward Ayoob, Partner, Federal Relations Practice Group Co-Chair, Barnes & Thornburg LLP](#)



Edward Ayoob is the former legislative counsel, tax counsel, appropriations manager, and foreign affairs adviser to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). He was also the senator's chief aide on judicial nominations and other issues related to the senator's leadership role. Edward also served as Majority Leader Reid's assistant finance director on the senator's successful 1998 reelection campaign. He has worked in the government and represented clients' interests before the government for nearly 30 years.

Edward received his J.D. in 1996 from Duquesne University School of Law, where he was elected vice-president of the Student Bar Association. He also was a member of Duquesne's Trial Moot Court and Appellate Moot Court Honor Societies. He clerked for Allegheny County (PA) Court of Common Pleas President Judge Robert E. Dauer.

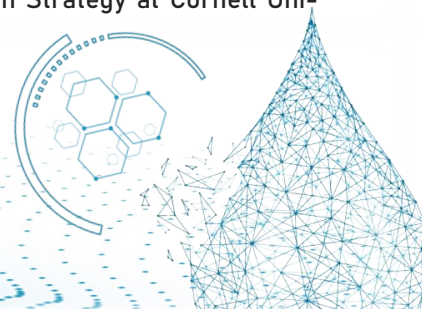
Edward graduated in 1991 from the University of Pittsburgh with a B.A. in international relations and political science. In 1990, he attended La Sorbonne and the American University of Paris. Edward is a member of the board of governors of the Arab American Institute and a member of the board of trustees of the International Maronite (Lebanese Catholics) Foundation. He is also a former president (1999-2004) and member of the board of directors of the Nevada State Society.

[Dr. Robert Bornhofen, DM, Director of Innovation, DC Water](#)



Dr. Robert Bornhofen embraces the creative spirit that goes into innovation, where smart people come together to address key challenges, where great ideas get transformed into extraordinary outcomes. As Director of Innovation for DC Water, Robert is tasked with formulating and executing a comprehensive strategy across the entire organization. Previously, he led innovation programs at IBM, Citibank, & Delta Air Lines.

Dr. Bornhofen earned a Doctorate degree from the University of Maryland, a Master of Science degree from Colorado State University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota. In his spare time, Robert teaches Innovation Strategy at Cornell University and the University of Maryland.



[Cherylene Caddy, Senior Technical Advisor for Cybersecurity, U.S. Department of Energy \(Invited\)](#)



Cherylene Caddy is the Senior Technical Advisor for Cybersecurity for the U.S. Department of Energy. She leads the coordination of research and development (R&D) activities across the Department of Energy (DOE), ensuring the integration of cybersecurity requirements. As the DOE representative in the White House-led R&D initiatives, including the National Science and Technology Council's Networking and Information Technology R&D Program, she plays a key role in interagency collaboration. Her work in cyber technical standards includes actively participating in standards development organizations. She directed a technical community of practice for Connected Vehicles, facilitating research, testing, and evaluation efforts among the intelligence community and defense stakeholders. She advanced global efforts in Cyber-Informed Engineering through curriculum development, technical standards, and pilot programs.

Cherylene previously worked as Deputy Assistant National Cyber Director for Technology & Research for the Office of the National Cyber Director at the The White House and as Executive Director, Enduring Security Framework for the National Security Agency. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies with a concentration in Russia from Norwich University, Military College of Vermont, a Master's degree in Foreign Affairs with a concentration on Russia and China, and a Master's in Public Administration from American University.

[Tim Connor, Senior Chemical Engineer, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management, Water Infrastructure Division](#)



Tim Connor is a Senior Chemical Engineer in the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) in EPA's Office of Water. For the past ten years, Tim has served as lead for the successful domestic preference programs of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Prior to joining OWM, Tim led engineering and economic analysis development for EPA's water quality standards and industrial effluent guidelines programs. Before joining EPA, Tim was a defense contractor and a drilling engineer. Tim holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Mexico and a M.S. in Environmental Science Engineering from Clemson University.

[Jay Conroy, President, Hydro-Dyne Engineering](#)



Jay Conroy is the President and Owner of Hydro-Dyne Engineering, a manufacturer of custom-engineered screening, screening handling, and grit removal equipment. Jay founded Hydro-Dyne Engineering, shortly after graduating from the University of Florida with degrees in environmental engineering, business administration, and sales engineering. Under his leadership the company has patented and acquired equipment designs, several facility expansions, pulled all engineering and manufacturing in house, and has opened several international markets with more than 2,500 installations worldwide.

Jay is Chair of the WWEMA Executive Committee, and is currently serving on the Board of Directors, Marketing and Member Services Committee, and Legislative and Regulatory Committee. He was recognized for his contributions to the mission of the association and to the overall benefit of the water and wastewater industry receiving the James C. Morriss Member Achievement Award presented by WWEMA in 2022.

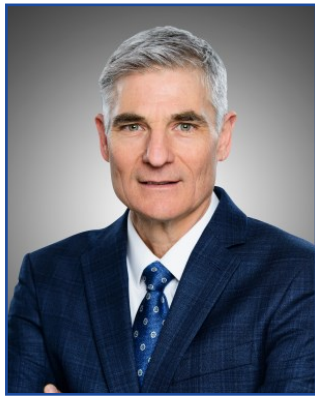


[Tom Dobbins, CEO, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies \(AMWA\)](#)



Tom Dobbins is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. An experienced association executive, he previously served as CEO of the Aluminum Association and the American Composites Manufacturers Association and led the government affairs program at the American Council of Engineering Companies. He also held senior roles on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. At prior associations, Dobbins has been instrumental in driving organizational growth and working with Congress to pass multiple infrastructure laws. He is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and is a Certified Association Executive.

[Dr. Peter Grevatt, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, The Water Research Foundation](#)



Peter Grevatt is CEO of The Water Research Foundation (WRF). He directs the world's leading One Water research cooperative advancing the science of water to meet the evolving needs of its subscribers and the water sector. WRF is a nonprofit, educational organization that funds, manages, and publishes research on the technology, operation, and management of drinking water, wastewater, reuse, and stormwater systems—all in pursuit of ensuring water quality and improving water services to the public. With over 1,100 subscriber members, the Foundation has over \$67 million of contracted research activities currently underway.

Dr. Grevatt has dedicated over 30 years to the implementation of public health and environmental protection programs, including significant national leadership experience in the water sector. He previously served as Director of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) where he was responsible for ensuring the safety of the nation's drinking water supply. Dr. Grevatt also served as Senior Advisor to EPA's Administrator for Children's Environmental Health and has held leadership roles in EPA's water quality and national hazardous waste cleanup programs. He is a graduate of New York University Medical Center with M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Basic Medical Sciences. He earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.

[Yu-Ting Guilaran, Deputy Director, U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water](#)



Yu-Ting Guilaran currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

[Chris Haigh, CEO, Meerkat Cyber](#)



Chris Haigh serves as a cybersecurity consultant to numerous entities that are considered critical infrastructure. He is an advisor and instructor for NERC, the regulatory body for energy utilities, and has obtained the highest levels of certification possible through the Department of Defense Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program: Certified CMMC Assessor, Certified CMMC Professional, and Certified CMMC Instructor. He also holds a CompTIA Security+ industry certification and is the author of the Microsoft / Ingram Micro Level 2 CMMC Implementation Guide for MSPs and Organizations Seeking Certification.

As a trained aeronautical and astronautical engineer who complemented his undergraduate work with a law degree, Chris finds the marriage of technology, law, and regulatory policy fascinating. He has worked as a legislative policy analyst and as a Chief Technology Officer for a cybersecurity firm, and is the founder and CEO of Meerkat Cyber, a candidate C3PAO.

[Gigi Karmous-Edwards, CEO, Karmous-Edwards Consultants](#)



Over the course of more than 25 years, Gigi Karmous-Edwards has worked in various domains of digital technologies, spanning the Data Communications industry, Academia, and most recently, dedicating the last 13 years to the Water Sector. Gigi is the technical lead of a GenAI WRF #5321 (GenAI for the Global Water Sector) project as a co-PI. Gigi is the founder and former chair of the SWAN Digital Twin H2O Work Group, leads AI market insights at Blue-Tech Research as a Technology Advisor Group (TAG) member, and serves on the Advisory Boards of Veralto and Qatium.

Gigi has authored over 40 publications and frequently speaks at global conferences. As the CEO of Karmous-Edwards Consulting, she advises global utilities and technology companies on digital transformation and GenAI. B.S. in Chemical Eng and M.S. Electrical Eng.

[Adam Krantz, CEO, National Association of Clean Water Agencies \(NACWA\)](#)



Adam Krantz is currently CEO 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 Washington, 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.

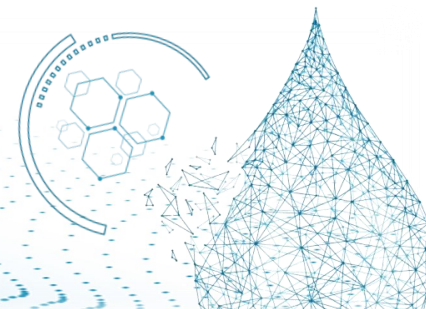
Prior to his position at NACWA, Mr. Krantz was an associate editor/reporter at Inside Washington Publishers where his work focused on covering the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's and Congress's national water quality initiatives. Before entering the environmental arena, Mr. Krantz worked as an attorney in the Washington, D.C. 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 U.S. 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 Washington, D.C., and the University of Chicago. He is a member of both the District of Columbia and Maryland Bar Associations.

[Daniel La Bella, Environmental Engineer, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management](#)



Daniel La Bella is an Environmental Engineer in the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) in EPA's Office of Water.



Barry Liner, Ph.D., PE, CTO, The Water Council



Barry Liner, Ph.D, PE, serves as Chief Technology Officer of The Water Council. He has 30 years of experience driving sustainability and innovation initiatives for private sector, non-profit, and academic organizations including The World Bank, Black & Veatch, and Water Environment Federation. Dr. Liner is also a Certified CMMI Lead Appraiser for software and systems engineering applications.

Richard Loeffler IV, EIT, Client Solutions Manager, Xylem Vue



Rich Loeffler has spent 18 years serving the water sector and currently serves as a Client Solutions Manager for Xylem's data and intelligence offerings. His career started out in treatment, specifically around potable water reuse. He now works closely with utility leaders and staff to deploy relevant digital solutions that enhance and simplify the ways data is used in utilities. He holds a Biosystems Engineering degree from Clemson University.

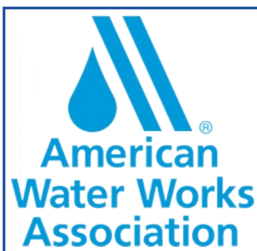
Michelle McNish, President, Walker Process Equipment



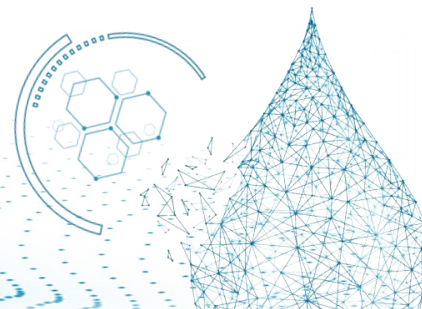
Michelle McNish has nearly 30 years of experience with McNish Corporation, a leading provider of engineered and manufactured equipment for the water and wastewater industry. The company operates three divisions—Amwell, E & I Corporation, and Walker Process Equipment—each recognized for delivering high-quality, innovative solutions. These divisions specialize in proven technologies for biological treatment, anaerobic treatment, wastewater clarification, digestion, separation, and sludge treatment.

Michelle has held progressively senior leadership roles throughout her tenure at McNish Corporation. She serves as CEO of McNish LLC and President of Walker Process Equipment, guiding the organization's strategic growth and commitment to excellence in the Water Environment Industry.

Kevin Morley, Federal Relation Manager, American Water Works Association (AWWA)



Kevin Morley is currently the Federal Relation Manager for the American Water Works Association (AWWA).



Kishia L. Powell, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer, WSSC Water



Kishia L. Powell has over 24 years of experience in both the public and private sectors across the U.S. and London, England. Powell currently leads a team of 1,680 strong at WSSC Water and manages the day-to-day operations of the largest water utility in Maryland – 8th largest in the country – and ensures water and water resource recovery services are safely provided to 1.9 million customers throughout a 1,000-square-mile service area.

Prior to being selected to lead WSSC Water, Powell served as DC Water's Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President. During her tenure at DC Water, Powell championed several initiatives, including a focus on operationalizing equity and environmental justice. She provided oversight for DC Water's 10-year \$6.4 billion capital improvement program and led the implementation of workstreams under the utility's strategic plan imperative for reliability.

Before DC Water, Powell was the City of Atlanta's Commissioner of Watershed Management, overseeing \$644 million in annual operating expenditures and a five-year capital improvement plan of \$1.26 billion. Powell previously served as the City of

Jackson, Mississippi's Public Works Director and Bureau Head of Water and Wastewater for the City of Baltimore, where she was recognized by the Chesapeake Water Environment Association as a Water Hero in 2010. A licensed Professional Engineer in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, Powell holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Morgan State University's Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. School of Engineering.

Andrew Sawyers, Director, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management



Andrew Sawyers, Ph.D., is the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC, where he oversees the management of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), the Clean Water Act's mechanism for the permitting of municipal and industrial discharge into surface waters of the U.S. In his role as the Director of OWM, Andrew is also responsible for multiple technical and financial assistance tools for the development and maintenance of the country's wastewater infrastructure, including WIFIA, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and EPA's Water Finance Center.

Previously at EPA, Andrew was the Deputy Director of the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. In that capacity, he worked with the Director to manage the implementation of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Prior to EPA, he worked for the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration, managing the State's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Andrew has a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Geography and Environmental Engineering.

