

Featured Panel: CPR's Energy, Oil & Gas and Environmental Neutrals

The Energy, Oil and Gas Panel—one of the CPR Institute's many specialty Panels of Distinguished Neutrals—is a blue-ribbon international panel that includes former general counsel and other energy neutrals who are experts in resolving complex disputes including alternative energy sources, and electrical, gas and nuclear specialties.

Robert P. Wax, a former energy industry general counsel, and past head of the regional energy practice of a large international law firm, has been an independent commercial arbitrator and mediator in his sole ADR practice for more than 10 years.



Robert P. Wax

He is not only active on CPR's Energy, Oil and Gas Panel and Committee, but he also is a CPR National Panelist as well as a CPR member.

Wax writes, "My 35 years of expertise as a General Counsel and as outside counsel in the energy industry has provided me with hands-on litigation, commercial and corporate expertise invaluable in serving as an arbitrator and mediator in the often highly regulated energy field, as well as in many other industries. Parties, and their counsel, in the numerous neutral assignments I have handled in the energy arena[,] have told me that I was selected for, and have brought to their disputes, a real insider's expertise on complex technologies and construction projects in the nuclear, renewable energy, electric, gas and power transmission fields."

The neutrals with extensive energy backgrounds who serve on this panel ac-

quired their experience by serving at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. They also have been in house at companies like General Electric Co., Fluor Technology Inc. of Irvine, Calif., and major regional electric companies.

E. David Tavender is partner emeritus in the Calgary office of Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP. Tavender's ADR practice has seen him serve as a neutral and as counsel on commercial arbitrations and mediations.



E. David Tavender

He notes that "practicing in the heart of Canada's energy country provides a unique perspective on the challenges faced by all stakeholders in the energy sector. This perspective allows me to get up to speed quickly on cases which saves the clients time, frustration and ultimately, cost. Being intimately familiar with the energy industry allows me to see the nuances of the parties' positions that are being put forward."

With spring arriving last month, and in anticipation of Earth Day later this month—as well as in keeping with a terra theme—another specialized CPR panel focuses on environmental law matters. This panel is composed of highly experienced attorneys focusing on resolving a wide variety of environmental conflicts, like U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations and Brownfields redevelopment. Panel members' areas of specialization include water rights, toxic torts, natural resources, and land use.

Eric Watt Wiechmann is manag-

ing partner of McCarter & English LLP, based in the firm's Hartford, Conn., office. His tenure at the 400-lawyer firm has helped him focus not just on disputes' legal aspects but also the parties' underlying business, financial and personal objectives.



Eric Watt Wiechmann

Wiechmann has been an adjunct member of the American Chemistry Council and is past general counsel of the New England Alternate Energy Industry Association. He has mediated several significant environmental disputes, including a federal suit involving 19 parties alleged to have contaminated an industrial property.

Wiechmann says, "Over three decades of representing companies and other parties involved in various aspects of the energy (e.g., petroleum, natural gas, coal, electricity, solar) and related chemical industries has given me a heightened sensitivity to the issues confronting parties facing disputes arising from purchase, production, transportation, use and cleanup of the various forms of energy, chemicals or related products. My familiarity with the terminology, science and business processes common to these industries [has] helped me in both deciding arbitrable disputes and facilitating the communication of each party's goals and interests in mediation sessions."

For further information about these or other CPR Panels of Distinguished Neutrals, please contact CPR Special Counsel Mara Weinstein at mweinstein@cpradr.org.

—Mara Weinstein, CPR Institute 