

Short Bios of Witnesses

Public Hearing on Banking and Climate Risks

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Dina Maher is the vice president in the Supervisory Policy and Strategy function of the Supervision Group and leads and contributes to a variety of efforts related to the supervision of large financial institutions. Ms. Maher joined the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in December 2010. Ms. Maher was previously employed as a senior director and head of accounting research & policy at Fitch Ratings, Inc. and prior to that was a managing director at the New York Stock Exchange. She began her career as an auditor at Ernst & Young. Ms. Maher, a certified public accountant, holds a bachelor of arts in economics from Colgate University, and a master of science in accounting from New York University.



Dr. Yue (Nina) Chen was appointed as the Executive Deputy Superintendent, Climate Division, New York State Department of Financial Services. Under her leadership, DFS became the first U.S. financial regulator to establish a holistic set of expectations for banks and insurers to integrate the financial risks from climate change into corporate governance, business strategies, risk management, and disclosure. She also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Climate Risk Steering Group at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. Before joining DFS, Dr. Chen was the Nature Conservancy's Director of Conservation Investments in New Jersey, and later in New York. In this role she developed innovative conservation finance programs, advised cities on attracting private capital to accelerate and scale up conservation impacts, and led urban water resilience initiatives. She started her career in finance, which spanned a wide range of areas, including sovereign bonds, interest rates derivatives, mortgages, and structured credit products, at Goldman Sachs and Royal Bank of Canada, among others. She received her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Dr. Robert Engle, Professor Emeritus of Finance, Co-Director, The Volatility and Risk Institute, Leonard N. Stern School of Business, Kaufman Management Center. Professor Engle was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Economics for his research on the concept of autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (ARCH). He developed this method for statistical modeling of time-varying volatility and demonstrated that these techniques accurately capture the properties of many time series. Professor Engle shared the prize with Clive W. J. Granger of the University of California at San Diego. Professor Engle is an expert in time series analysis with a long-standing interest in the analysis of financial markets. His ARCH model and its generalizations have

become indispensable tools not only for researchers, but also for analysts of financial markets, who use them in asset pricing and in evaluating portfolio risk. He is currently the Co-Director of the NYU Stern Volatility and Risk Institute and is the Co-Founding President of the Society for Financial Econometrics (SoFiE), a global non-profit organization housed at NYU. Before joining NYU Stern in 2000, Professor Engle was Chancellor's Associates Professor and Economics Department Chair at the University of California, San Diego, and Associate Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received his bachelor of science in physics from Williams College and his master of science in physics and doctor of philosophy in economics from Cornell University. Born in Syracuse, NY, he grew up in Media, Pennsylvania, spent 25 years in San Diego, and now lives in New York.



Dr. Robert Litterman is a founding partner of Kepos Capital. Kepos Capital is a New York City based systematic global macro firm, and the Chairman of the Kepos Capital Risk Committee. Prior to joining Kepos Capital in 2010, Dr. Litterman enjoyed a 23-year career at Goldman Sachs & Co., where he served in research, risk management, investments and thought leadership roles. He oversaw the Quantitative Investment

Strategies Group in the Asset Management division. Dr. Litterman was named a partner of Goldman Sachs in 1994 and became head of the firm-wide risk function; prior to that role, he was co-head of the Fixed Income Research and Model Development Group with Fischer Black. He is the co-developer of the Black-Litterman Global Asset Allocation Model, a key tool in investment management, and has co-authored books including *The Practice of Risk Management* and *Modern Investment Management: An Equilibrium Approach* (Wiley & Co.). Dr. Litterman earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. in Human Biology from Stanford University. He was inducted into Risk Magazine's Risk Management Hall of Fame and named the

2013 Risk Manager of the Year by the Global Association of Risk Professionals. In 2012, he was the inaugural recipient of the S. Donald Sussman Fellowship at MIT's Sloan School of Management. In 2008, Mr. Litterman received the Nicholas Molodovsky Award from the CFA Institute Board as well as the International Association of Financial Engineers/SunGard Financial Engineer of the Year Award. Mr. Litterman serves on a number of boards, including Commonfund, where he was elected Chair in 2014, the Niskanen Center, Resources for the Future, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Ceres, World Wildlife Fund, the Sloan Foundation, the Woodwell Climate Research Center, and the Climate Leadership Council, where he serves as co-chair of the Board. Dr. Litterman also chaired the CFTC Climate-Related Market Risk Subcommittee, which published its report, "Managing Climate Risk in the U.S. Financial System," in September 2020.



Cathy Kantrowitz, President, New York Mortgage Bankers Association. Kantrowitz is the AVP, Residential Underwriting Manager for Rhinebeck Bank. She has over 30 years' experience in mortgage processing and underwriting with over 20 years' experience in mortgage operations management. The majority of her career was spent working in credit unions and the last few years with community banks. Kantrowitz has been a NYMBA Board member since the formation of the Association. She is committed to the mission of the NYMBA and promoting home ownership in New York State. She is also a Past National President for the National Association of Professional Mortgage Women promoting the development of women in the mortgage industry. Locally, she is active with the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Hudson Valley MBA

and other mortgage related organizations.



Christina Wiley, Executive Director, New York Mortgage Bankers Association. Christina has been an active member of the Mortgage Bankers Association at the local level during her career in real estate finance. Prior to joining the statewide New York MBA, Christina worked with the Albany County Land Bank, focusing on improving neighborhoods by strategically improving and selling vacant and abandoned properties. Christina has served as the Executive Secretary of the Mortgage Bankers Association of North Eastern New York, working to promote higher professional standards and providing educational opportunities for their members. Christina was an integral part of establishing the very first Mortgage Bankers *Advocacy Day* in New York, a collaborative effort of professional Mortgage Bankers from across the state engaging with state

legislators about legislation that may affect the mortgage industry.



Ivan Frishberg, Senior Vice President Chief Sustainability Officer, Amalgamated Bank. Ivan Frishberg has been with Amalgamated since 2016, most previously serving as First Vice President, Commercial Banking, leading the Sustainability Banking Division. With over 20 years' experience in public interest advocacy, organizing, and policy experience, he used this role to rally bank sector commitments to combat climate change, including growing the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) to \$50 trillion in assets,

committed to measurement and disclosure of financed emissions. Mr. Frishberg positioned Amalgamated to take a global leadership role within (UNEP FI), and supported the development of guidance for how banks will set targets to reduce their financed emissions through the recently launched Net Zero Banking Alliance. Mr. Frishberg sits on the Steering Group of the NZBA and the Advisory Panel for the Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero. Previously he was Senior Advisor and Climate Change Campaign Manager for Organizing for Action, and a Senior Advisor to the Climate Action Campaign, a multi-year national coalition effort to defend the Clean Air Act supporting new federal policies on climate and public health. Mr. Frishberg has managed major public engagement grant programs for Pew Charitable Trusts and served as the Political Director for Environment America and Clean Energy Works. Mr. Frishberg also worked with the Climate Briefing Service on the intersection of U.S. Climate Advocacy.



Richard Schrader, New York Policy and Legislative Director, NRDC. Rich Schrader is a veteran New York environmental and political strategist who leads NRDC's Albany advocacy and works throughout the Northeast region. He has helped secure a broad range of legislative and administrative wins that have elevated New York State's national climate and environmental leadership. Schrader has played a key role in successful campaigns to protect the climate, advance clean energy, and curb fossil fuel reliance. These legislative and regulatory victories include New York's seminal 2014 fracking ban, a prohibition on offshore drilling in the Atlantic, the multi-state rejection of the

Williams Pipeline, the landmark divestment of the New York State Common Retirement fund from fossil fuel investments, and the passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act—the state's nation-leading climate law that mandates 100% clean energy by 2040. He has also been involved in the decade-long effort to protect the Delaware River Basin from fracking, which culminated in a fracking ban in 2021. Schrader had a hand in a number of additional historic campaigns to protect natural resources, endangered species, and public health. These achievements include the first congestion pricing plan in the U.S., a comprehensive food waste recycling law, the creation of NY SUN—a billion dollar investment in solar projects across the region, a first-in-

the-nation statewide ban on ivory products and the commercial use of giraffe parts, bans on the use of the toxic chemical PFAS in firefighting foam and food containers, and prohibitions on toxic flame retardant chemicals used in household furniture and electronic casings. Prior to joining NRDC, Schrader was appointed as New York City's commissioner of consumer affairs by Mayor David Dinkins, where he led one of the nation's first law enforcement actions prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors. During his tenure, he managed the most extensive consumer affairs enforcement action, shutting down a ring of gas stations that conspired in a multimillion-dollar price gouging scheme. He also co-chaired the task force that designed the first commercial recycling regulations in New York City. City & State named him as part of its 2019 and 2020 list of New York's top energy and environment power players. He is a graduate of Fordham University and holds a master's in journalism from Boston University.



Stephan Edel is the Coalition Coordinator of NY Renews. Stephan has been working on environmental, labor, and community issues for over a decade. Before coming to NY Renews, Stephan was the New York Project Director for Working Families. He previously worked as a union and community organizer before attending law school. He has a JD from The City University of New York School of Law. He also holds a Master's Degree in Global Politics from Birkbeck College of the University of London. He worked extensively doing climate and environmental coalition work since joining Working Families a decade ago to expand and implement the

landmark Green Jobs Green New York energy efficiency program and pass On-Bill Recovery financing. Stephan has worked on campaign research and legislative efforts across issues in New York and other states, and was involved with NYRenews from early on.



David Arkush, managing director of Public Citizen's Climate Program and a fellow at the Roosevelt Institute. He is an expert on the climate crisis, financial regulation, regulatory law and policy, and consumer and worker protection. He has broad experience building coalitions and advocating for the public interest, having lobbied extensively before Congress and regulatory agencies and litigated complex cases in the federal courts. He was recently instrumental in developing within the U.S. Climate Action Network a comprehensive, widely supported platform of strong, equitable climate policies, the Vision for Equitable Climate Action. Before running the Climate Program, David spent five years directing Public Citizen's

Congress Watch division, where he led strategic research and advocacy campaigns and played key roles in the passage of laws including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer

Protection Act of 2010 and the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. A TIME magazine profile of David notes that he has “advocated for consumer protection, advised breaking up the largest, too-big-to-fail banks and addressed other industry-structure issues, while investigating the financial sector’s myriad ties to the government.” David has also taught Administrative Law and Legislation at the University of Richmond School of Law. He graduated with honors from Harvard Law School, where he served as managing editor of the Harvard Civil Rights—Civil Liberties Law Review, and with honors from Washington University in St. Louis, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.



Tousif Ahsan, Public Bank Campaign Coordinator, New Economy Project. Tousif coordinates the Public Bank NYC coalition as a key part of our work to advance public banking in New York, working with community groups from around the city and state to fight for racial and economic justice. Before joining New Economy Project’s staff, Tousif coordinated various campaigns at NYPIRG, ranging from environmental protection to expanding voting rights. He started out at NYPIRG training as a student organizer, then coordinated student chapters and student-led campaigns at CUNY campuses all over the city. Having grown up in Queens as an immigrant, Tousif has seen first-hand how the inequities faced by working class communities. He is invested in building power through movements so that communities like his can reclaim their future.



Collin Rees is the U.S. Program Manager at research and advocacy organization Oil Change International, where he works to constrain the expansion of the fossil fuel industry, end public support for oil, gas, and coal, and wind down fossil fuel production with a just and equitable transition. He has campaigned on climate, racial justice, and labor issues for over a decade. Prior to joining Oil Change, Rees worked to build the power of the fossil fuel divestment movement at 350.org and trained youth with the Energy Action Coalition. He is a Board member of international youth advocacy group SustainUS and previously worked at the White House Council on

Environmental Quality.



Dr. Edward Williams, President, Regional Ready Rockaway. Dr. Edward Williams’s distinguished career brings over fifty years of experience as a Political Action Advocate throughout metropolitan New York City. His professional work included the NYC Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Dr. Williams rose to EMS Union Vice President where he chaired the Political Action Committee representing Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics and Medical Corpsman. In collaboration with parent union District Council 37, he successfully lobbied for new legislation that is responsible for today’s certification standards for EMS training. Shortly after joining NYC Department of

Juvenile Justice as a Juvenile Counselor, he served as the Political Action Chair for his local. Dr. Williams served as Emergency Service Administrator at several hospitals in the Borough of Brooklyn. He also served as then Assemblymember Gregory W. Meeks Special Assistant for Public Housing and, Special Education and Community Liaison in the 6th Congressional District, representing Congressman Gregory W. Meeks. Dr. Williams is currently the President and CEO of Regional Ready Rockaway Inc. (501c3 Non-Profit). The group’s commitment is to help communities act and become more resilient toward natural disasters and climate-related events. Their mission is to inform, educate, and motivate communities to protect themselves from the loss of life, property, and prosperity as a result of natural hazards.



Sandi “Sandi” Pope, President & CEO, CistaGirls 4 Clean Water Corp. Sandi is a home owner and resident of Queens, New York for over 25 years. CISTA 4 CLEAN WATER INC. is a not-for-profit, 501c3 Environmental Organization committed to heighten the awareness of the polluted state of our oceans and waterways, endangered eco system, and the diminishing life on our planet, due to Global warming issues. Our Global mission, “CISTA GIRLS leading the way to save our planet”. Since our inception in 2016, Girls, 8-18 years old, have become members of the CISTA GIRLS Environmental Club, to volunteer and participate in environmental projects, such as beach clean-ups, science fairs, host TV shows, spelling bees, recycle projects, library presentations, and more, to educate the community on

how to build a stronger relationship between man and the environment. CISTA GIRLS TV Show, on QPTV, won the National Media completion on the subject of Environment. The TV show can be seen on YouTube, CISTA GIRLS ENVIRONMENT on “Cutting Trees”. Sandi has BA from Brooklyn College and Associate’s Degree in Advertising and Marketing from NYCCC.



Kevin W. Alexander has served as President & CEO of Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation since 2006. Mr. Alexander along with the Board of Directors is responsible for executing programs services focused on building equity and equality of low-moderate income youth and adults, preserving homeownership as not only goal for families but as a strategy to preserve its neighborhoods, partnering with city agencies and elected officials to rejuvenate neighborhood retail districts through comprehensive urban planning focused on re-zoning, affordable housing, public space activation, and infrastructure improvements. During his tenure, with the support of his team has raised and deployed over \$25,000,000 in human services programs. Kevin served as a leading community advocate and project partner to the City of New and NYC Councilman Donovan Richards in securing funding and community support of the \$400,000,000

Downtown Far Rockaway Urban Renewal project. Prior to RDRC, Kevin served for seven years as Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement where he managed the organization \$10,000,000 operating and \$5,000,000 investment reserve fund. He also served as Chief Financial Officer at Harlem Dowling Westside Center for Children and Family Services where he managed a staff over 200 employees and an operating budget of \$16,000,000. Kevin also has five plus years' experience as project manager and Deputy Agency Chief Contracting Officer with the NYC Human Resources Administration where he managed over 200 contracting and procurement officers and a portfolio of human services contracts valued in excess of \$5,000,000,000. Kevin earned his bachelor's degree in Public Administration from St. John's University, Master's Degree in Public Finance & Management from the Robert Wagner School of Public Service at New York University, and an Advanced Certificate in Executive Management from the John F. Kennedy School of Public Service at Harvard University.