

## Cheryl Roberto, Senior Principal

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Synapse Energy Economics | 485 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 2 | Cambridge, MA 02139 | [croberto@synapse-energy.com](mailto:croberto@synapse-energy.com)

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Synapse Energy Economics Inc.**, Cambridge, MA. *Senior Principal*, 2019–present.

Provides expert consulting services for removing operational, regulatory, and policy barriers to the decarbonization of the energy system on behalf of mission-driven investors, regulators, and other stakeholders seeking to accelerate the transformation of the grid.

**Twenty First Century Utilities**, Washington, D.C. *Senior Advisor*, 2019 – present; *Managing Director: Utility Transformation*, 2015–2019.

Worked to transform, through acquisition and operation, regulated utilities with a 21<sup>st</sup> century model that drives mass adoption of clean, low-cost energy producing and energy saving technologies. Advanced utility of the future policies, operations, technologies, and governance inclusive of grid optimization, de-carbonization of utility-scale fleet, implementation of TFC Utilities' Million Rate Base Market Platform, and achieving sustainable business value.

**Environmental Defense Fund**, *Associate Vice President, EDF Clean Energy Program*, 2013–2015.

Led national program advocating regulatory reform to help modernize U.S. energy infrastructure, accelerate deployment of clean technologies into the nation's electric system, and break down the regulatory and financial barriers to broad-scale adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other innovative ways to generate, distribute, and use energy. Managed a team of over 30 individuals and an annual budget of \$11 million dollars.

**Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**, Columbus, Ohio. *Commissioner*, 2008–2012.

In addition to customary responsibilities of a Commissioner, initiated a national pilot partnership with the United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) for combined heat power; served as Co-Chair 2012 National Electricity Forum, Co-Chair, State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network Driving Ratepayer-Funded Efficiency Working Group (also Chair Sub-Committee for Utility Financial Incentives), Co-Leader U.S. Agency for International Development (U.S. A.I.D.)/NARUC meeting with National Electricity Regulatory Commission of Ukraine (Kiev, Ukraine, September 2011), and a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC):

- Task Force on Environmental Regulation and Generation (2012)
- Committee on Critical Infrastructure (also served as Vice Chair) (2010–2012)
- Committee on Electricity (2008–2012)

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**Department of Public Utilities, City of Columbus**, Columbus, OH. *Director*, 2003–2006, *Deputy Director for Operations*, 2001–2003.

Led municipal water, wastewater, and electric utility with annual operating budget of \$400 million dollars, an annual capital budget of \$250 million dollars, and a staff of 1300 people serving the nation's 15th largest city and 22 Central Ohio political subdivisions. Established and successfully managed \$2.5 billion dollar capital engineering and construction program, the largest ever undertaken by the City of Columbus. Completed extensive restructuring of utility rate models and design for the first time in two decades to validate cost of service. Managed successful water quality-focused environmental initiatives involving extensive stakeholder outreach and public education, including the development and adoption of the Hellbranch Run Watershed protection Overlay and Clean Water Act Facilities Plan.

**Office of the Mayor, City of Columbus, Ohio**, Columbus, OH. *Policy Advisor*, 2000.

Provided advice on public policy issues including health, environment, public utilities, housing, public safety, and development to support the launch of the Mayoral administration of Michael B. Coleman.

**Office of the City Attorney, City of Columbus**, Columbus, OH. *Assistant City Attorney*, 1997–2000.

Represented City of Columbus for municipal law issues related to environmental, health, and safety matters including environmental permitting (NPDES, Title V, MS4), regulatory enforcement (industrial pretreatment, fire code, storm water development), compliance counseling (RCRA, OSHA, Clean Drinking Water), environmental liability management (PCB disposal, real estate), and contracts.

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**, *Assistant Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel*, 1996–1997.

Served as counsel to the Department of Environmental Protection concerning Superfund, drinking water, wastewater, solid and hazardous waste, and air pollution.

**Cheryl L. Roberto, Esq.** *Owner*, 1993–1996.

Built boutique law practice specializing in environmental matters; representative clients included City of Erie, Pennsylvania, Erie Sewer Authority, and Erie County Department of Health.

**State of Ohio**, Columbus, OH. *Assistant Attorney General*, 1987–1992.

Represented the State of Ohio in Environmental and Consumer Protection matters through administrative proceedings, civil actions, and criminal prosecutions concerning wastewater, solid and hazardous waste, and air pollution.

## **EDUCATION**

**Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH

Juris Doctor, 1987. Member, Journal of Dispute Resolution. Recipient, University Scholarship and Caris Fellowship. Founding Member, Board of Directors for the Student Funded Fellowship.

**Kent State University**, Kent, OH

BA, Political Science, *cum laude*, 1984.

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Graduated with General Honors from the Honors College. Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha. Recipient of Manchester Cup, Junior Service Award, Sophomore Leadership Award, Honor's Scholarship. Honor's Dissertation adopted and implemented by K.S.U. Board of Trustees: "Student Leadership Compensation Model for Kent State University," KSU Library Archives, Honors Papers (1984).

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government**, Cambridge, MA  
Executive Education Certificate of Completion: Strategic Management of Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies, 2012.

**University of Colorado**, Silicon Flatirons Center, Boulder, CO  
Institute for Regulatory Law and Economics, Seminar, May 2012.

**Scott Hempling Attorney at Law LLC**, Electricity Law Update Seminar, March 2012.

**American Law Institute/American Bar Association**  
42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Advanced Course of Study in Environmental Law, February 2012.

**SNL Center for Financial Education**, Essentials of Regulatory Finance, June 2011.

**National Regulatory Research Institute**, Electricity's Current Challenges: Capital Investment, Renewables, Energy Efficiency, "Modern" IRP, and Transmission. January 2011.

**Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI  
Advanced Regulatory Studies Program, "Ratemaking, Accounting, and Economics," September 2010.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

**Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award**, January 2013.  
Presented by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to the organization or individual in the 13-state region who has served as a strong leader in support of energy efficiency in their city, state, region, company, or community.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISIONS**

- Executive Group for the State and Local Energy Efficiency Network (2012–present)
- Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) (2012)
- Financial Research Institute (FRI) Advisory Board (2011–2012), Chair, Hot Topic Hotline Committee (2012)
- Audubon Ohio, Board Member (2007–2008)
- Franklin County Planning Commission, Member (2001–2006)

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- Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, Board Member (2003–2006); Engineering, Operations and Compliance Committee Chair
  - Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Member (2003–2006); Greenways Steering Committee Chair; Member Public Works Integrating Committee
  - Community Research Partners, Board Member (2000–2002)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Roberto, C. 2017. "Aligning Economic Incentives: Evolution of the Utility Business Model." Hawaii Clean Energy Law and Finance. Honolulu, HI. July 21, 2017.

Roberto, C. 2017. "TFC's Million Rate Base Model." National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment. May 15, 2017.

Roberto, C. 2017. "Creating a Resilient Energy Economy." Maui Energy Conference. Maui, HI. April 6, 2017.

Roberto, C. 2016. "A Twenty First Century Utility." Department of Energy Quadrennial Energy Review Second Installment Public Meeting. Atlanta, GA. May 24, 2016.

Roberto, C. 2016. "What is Sustainable Electricity." Electric Power Research Institute ENV-VISION: Environmental Vision – An International Electricity Sector Conference. Washington, D.C. May 10, 2016.

Roberto, C. 2016. "Utility Transformation: Opportunities for Jobs, our Communities & the Planet." Florida Women in Energy Conference. April 15, 2016.

Roberto, C. 2016. "Confluence of Environmental & Economic Regulation." Ohio Bar Association Environmental Law Conference. Columbus, OH. April 14, 2016.

Roberto, C. 2016. "Can Ohio Meet the Clean Power Plan?" John Glenn College of Public Affairs Dialogue. January 21, 2016.

Roberto, C. 2015. "Right to Data Access." SmartGrid Consumer Collaborative. August 26, 2015.

Roberto, C. 2015. "Success Factors: Career Profiles of Women Leaders." National Association for Environmental Management Women's EHS & Sustainability Leadership Roundtable. San Antonio, TX. April 16, 2015.

Roberto, C. 2015. "Smart Grid: Lessons Learned." Energy Thought Summit 2015. Austin, TX. March 25, 2015.

Roberto, C. 2015. "Decarbonizing the Energy Supply." Energy & Climate Change: 15th National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy, and the Environment. January 27, 2015.

Roberto, C. 2014. "Clean Energy Policy -- Looking Ahead to 2020." Forum 20/20: Innovation and the Future of CleanTech. October 29, 2014.

Roberto, C. 2014. "2014 EPRI-TVA Environmental Benchmarking Forum, Charlotte, NC, October 6, 2014.

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Roberto, C. 2014. "Product Innovations for Retail Customers." Retail Energy Supply Association's 2014 Energy Competition Symposium. Columbus, Ohio. October 2, 2014.

Roberto, C. 2013. "Policies Matter: Practical Approaches for Regulators to Encourage CHP." WVU Law Center for Energy & Sustainable Development Energy Conference 2013. April 24, 2013.

Roberto, C. 2013. "Enhancing Industry through Industrial Energy Efficiency & Combined Heat and Power." National Governors Association Policy Academy. March 4, 2013.

Roberto, C. 2013. "Breaking Through the 'Grid'-lock." ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit. February 26, 2013.

Roberto, C. 2013. "Investing in Combined Heat and Power: Benefits and Challenges." National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Winter Meeting. February 5, 2013.

Roberto, C. 2013. "Should There Be a Change to Cost Effectiveness Testing?" 2013 Midwest Energy Solutions Conference. January 17, 2013.

Roberto, C. 2013. "Working Together to Advance Energy Efficiency: Partnerships for Tackling Persistent Barriers & Achieving Results." Department of Energy. January 16, 2013.

Roberto, C. 2013. "Transmission Cost Allocation: What Lies Ahead?" Harvard Electricity Policy Group Sixty-Eighth Plenary Session. October 11-12, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. "What is the future design of the regulatory process?" 2012 Financial Research Institute Symposium: Emerging Issues in the Management of the Regulatory Interface, September 19, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. NARUC/FERC Forum on Reliability and the Environment. February 7, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. "Testing...Testing: Are We Getting the Most Value out of Cost-Effectiveness Tests for Energy Efficiency?" Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners 17th Annual Education Conference. June 26, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. "Successful Approaches to Promote Industrial EE and CHP." U.S. DOE Midwest Industrial Energy Efficiency and Combined Heat & Power Dialogue Meeting. June 21, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. "Promoting Industrial CHP Through Utility Ownership." Industrial Energy Efficiency and CHP Dialogue DOE Regional Meeting—Midwest. June 22, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. "All Cost-Effective Energy Efficiency. All? You're Kidding, Aren't You." Financial Research Institute, Hot Topic Webinar. June 13, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. "Natural Gas Pipeline Safety: How to Address Cost-Effectiveness and Ratemaking Concerns While Ensuring Public Safety." National Regulatory Research Institute Teleseminar, original broadcast. April 26, 2012.

Roberto, C. 2012. "Using Regulations and Markets to Broaden and Deepen the Savings Delivered by Energy Providers" Policies for Energy Provider Delivery of Energy Efficiency North American Regional Policy Dialogue. Washington, D.C. April 18-19, 2012.

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Roberto, C. 2011. "Pipeline Safety—Steps to a Robust Integrity Management Program." Financial Research Institute, Hot Topic Webinar. December 15, 2011.

Roberto, C. 2011. "Safety First! How Pipeline Safety Programs are Evolving." 2011 NARUC Annual Meeting.

Roberto, C. 2011. "What is a 'Utility' Anyway and Who Needs It?" National Regulatory Research Institute Teleseminar - original broadcast. February 2, 2011.

Roberto, C. 2011. "A Black Swan? Geomagnetic Storms, Pandemics & Cyber Events: Planning for the Uncertain." 2011 NARUC Winter Committee Meetings, Committees on Electricity and Critical Infrastructure.

Roberto, C. 2011. "CyberSHIELD: Cybersecurity Legislation and the SHIELD Act." 2011 NARUC Summer Committee Meetings, Committees on Consumer Affairs and Critical Infrastructure.

Roberto, C. 2011. "Regulatory Tools and Limits." Serving National Security Workshop. July 20, 2011.

Roberto, C. 2011. "Regulation, Accounting & the Capital Markets" 2011 Financial Research Institute Symposium, The Search for Capital: Utility Financing in the 21st Century. September 2011.

Roberto, C. 2001. "Hellbranch Run Enhanced Development Standards: The process to develop the City of Columbus draft Hellbranch Run Watershed Protection Ordinance." Water Management Association of Ohio, 2001 Fall Conference.

## TESTIMONY AND PUBLICATIONS

**United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (SD-366):** Direct testimony of Cheryl Roberto regarding national electric grid modernization, reliability, and security. April 10, 2014.

Roberto, C., N. Dormady. 2013. *The Costs of Inefficiency: Ignoring Ohio's Energy Efficiency Potential*. John Glenn School of Public Affairs.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Reliability Technical Conference (Docket No. AD12-1-000):** Direct testimony of Cheryl Roberto regarding maintaining electric grid reliability and affordability while meeting EPA goals. On behalf of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. November 30, 2011.

Roberto, C. 1987. *Limits of Judicial Authority in Pretrial Settlement Under Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*. 2 Ohio St. J. Dis. Res. 311.

Roberto, C. 1987. *Alternative Dispute Resolution: A Resource for Practitioners*. Ohio Lawyer Practitioner's Desk-top Reference.

*Resume dated July 2019*