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2023 VIRGINIA FORUM ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Speaker Biographies



Barry DuVal
President & CEO
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Barry DuVal was named President and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce on April 28, 2010. His public service began in 1988 when he was elected to the Newport News City Council. In 1990 he was elected mayor of the city. He served as mayor from 1990 through 1996, when he stepped down to become the President and CEO of a regional economic development organization representing Southeast Virginia's 1.6 million citizens.

Mr. DuVal served as the Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1998 through 2002. During his term as Secretary, Virginia attracted a record-setting 1,500 economic development projects representing 156,850 new jobs and \$13.7 billion in private investment.

His private sector experience includes serving as President and CEO of DuVal Associates, Inc, a diversified real estate firm which he cofounded with his father in 1983. Additionally, he served as President and CEO of Kaufman & Canoles Consulting, LLC, an economic development consulting firm from 2002 until joining the Virginia Chamber of Commerce as President & CEO in 2010.

Mr. DuVal is a graduate of James Madison University and American University's Washington College of Law.



Lakshmi Williams
General Counsel, Transurban North America
Chair, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

As General Counsel North America, Lakshmi has responsibility for managing all legal work related to Transurban's operating assets, development efforts and Mergers & Acquisitions. In addition, she oversees the governance, risk and compliance functions for the North American business and has responsibility for all litigation. Lakshmi plays a key role in structuring, negotiating, and financing new projects from project inception, proposal development and financing through delivery, launch and operations. She supervises all aspects of IP portfolio and strategy as well as streamlining U.S. and Canadian corporate legal entities to optimize tax outcomes and support future development efforts. She has managerial and Board responsibilities for Transurban's North American assets.

Lakshmi has served in a number of advisory positions including her role on various Boards of Directors, including representing Transurban's interests in Bluedot - a technology company enabling geofencing for the GoToll mobile tolling app. She also serves as First Chair on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. She was awarded "Top Corporate Counsel, Washington, DC" and named a "Leader Among Us" by the Asian Pacific Bar association. She has been a guest lecturer at a variety of law schools and the Virginia Bar Association and is a frequent presenter at industry forums.

Lakshmi brings extensive experience to the role gained in a legal career that spans over 25 years. Prior to joining Transurban in 2012, she worked as Deputy General Counsel at GridPoint, an energy tech company, as well as Deputy Counsel at MicroStrategy, a public software company. Prior to going in-house, Lakshmi practiced as a corporate and securities associate at a few large Washington, D.C. law firms, including Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson).

Lakshmi received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Economics and English Literature from Rice University. She also received a Certificate in Executive Management and Leadership from the MIT Sloan School of Management. She is admitted to the D.C. and Texas bar and admitted as corporate counsel in Virginia.



Tim Chapman
Building a Better America
Senior Advisor, Advancing American Freedom

Tim Chapman is a Principal at P2 Public Affairs where he works with clients to build national campaigns to influence public policy.

Chapman has served as the Executive Director of Heritage Action, Chief of Staff at the Heritage Foundation, and as an adviser and staff to Senators DeMint, Nickles and Hutchinson.

Chapman's experience in conservative policy advocacy is extensive as he was a co-founder of Heritage Action - the advocacy arm of The Heritage Foundation – and a former Executive Director at Stand for America, an advocacy organization founded by Ambassador Nikki Haley. Tim has built and maintained policy coalitions on the right that have helped shape the consensus within the GOP and he has helped craft messaging/activist campaigns that have resulted in policy victories.



The Honorable Shep Miller
Secretary of Transportation
Office of the Governor

W. Sheppard “Shep” Miller III is a native and lifelong resident of Norfolk. He received a B.A. from Hampden-Sydney College and an MBA from the College of William and Mary. In 2017, he retired as Chairman upon his sale of KITCO Fiber Optics, a defense-contracting firm, twice named as one of Virginia’s “Fantastic 50” fastest growing companies.

He is a member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Board of Virginia Free. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sydney College, Washington College, and the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Norfolk Board of Towne Bank and is an Executive Board member of both the Greater Norfolk Corporation and the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce.

His past community activities include service as Chairman or President of the Norfolk Economic Development Authority, the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee, the Better Business Bureau of Greater Hampton Roads, the Peninsula United Way Campaign, Hampton Roads Ventures, and the Norfolk Rotary Club.



Brooks Smith
Managing Partner
Troutman Pepper – Richmond

Brooks is an environmental and natural resources partner at Troutman Sanders. Brooks leads the environmental practice in Virginia and helps lead the firm's national strategic initiatives on energy, water, compliance assurance and enforcement defense. Prior to joining Troutman Sanders in August 2013, Brooks co-chaired the global environmental practice at Hunton & Williams. Brooks is widely recognized for his work, both locally and nationally. He is top ranked by Chambers USA, Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers and the Virginia Legal Elite. He has also been recognized as a Leader in the Law by Virginia Lawyers Weekly and one of the country's 50 Energy & Environmental Trailblazers by the National Law Journal. Brooks has written and spoken extensively on developments arising under the Clean Water Act and other environmental laws. In addition, he has chaired several national conferences and given more than 300 presentations to audiences across the United States and Canada.

Brooks is also deeply committed to the local community. He serves on nine boards, including Maymont, the Valentine and CultureWorks. He is a founding board member (now emeritus) of the Capital Region Land Conservancy. For six years, Brooks contributed essays and poems on WCVB Public Radio through a commentary series called Rediscovering Richmond. Many of those commentaries have since been compiled into books accompanied by vintage photographs from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the Dementi family and other local collections.



Katharine Bond
VP, Public Policy, Alternative Energy and Economic Development Strategy
Dominion Energy

Katharine Bond is vice president—Public Policy & Alternative Energy Strategy at Dominion Energy. Bond is responsible for the company's corporate public policy function, intergovernmental affairs, infrastructure projects strategy, and economic development strategy. She has nearly 25 years of experience ranging from finance to corporate governance, compliance, stakeholder engagement, and government affairs.

She currently serves as the rector of the Longwood University Board of Visitors and as a board member on the Solar and Energy Storage Development Authority of Virginia, Clean Energy Advisory Council of Virginia, LEAD Virginia, and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. She is a founding member of the Washington D.C. area chapter of CHIEF, a national membership network for women in leadership.

Katharine was recently named to the World 50's Women Executive initiative which is dedicated to cultivating leaders globally. She served on the company's Diversity Council for seven years, including as its chair. Katharine has a bachelor's degree from Longwood University and a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, both in finance. She is a member of the 2016 class of LEAD Virginia, the 2018 class of the Virginia Executive Institute, and is currently a PhD student at the L. Douglas Wilder School for Government and Public Affairs.



Susan Dewey

**CEO
Virginia Housing**

Susan Dewey has served as Virginia Housing's Chief Executive Officer since being appointed by the Board of Commissioners in 1999. Susan is responsible for Virginia Housing's daily operations as well as the implementation of its strategic plan.

Prior to becoming the Virginia Housing CEO, Susan served for three years as a Virginia Housing Commissioner. At that time, Susan was the State Treasurer of Virginia. She directed all operations of the Department of the Treasury and the Treasury Board. Susan serves on many housing-related nonprofit Boards, such as Housing Forward Virginia, as well as the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Susan loves the Virginia Housing mission and is most appreciative of the critical work the organization does in support of affordable housing.

She has celebrated many accomplishments over the years, including the Richmond Times-Dispatch Person of the Year Honoree in 2019, the Excellence in Virginia Government Award for Public-Private Partnerships award in 2021, the Outstanding Organizational Partner Award for National Philanthropy Day in 2021, and the Urban League of Hampton Roads' Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Leaders Award for Housing in 2022, and the National Housing Conference Housing Visionary Award in 2023.

Susan received her BBA and MBA from The College of William & Mary and is a CPA. When she's not advocating for affordable housing, Susan enjoys spending time with family, challenging her husband at backgammon and learning new skills, like Pickleball.



Robert Duvall

**President
Virginia Natural Gas**

Robert Duvall serves as president of Virginia Natural Gas. In this role, he is responsible for the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to over 300,000 customers in southeastern Virginia and the company's system growth and expansion and community involvement. In addition, Duvall serves as senior vice president of Southern Company Gas and is a member of the Southern Company Gas Management Council. Southern Company Gas is a subsidiary of Southern Company and the parent company of Virginia Natural Gas.

Before assuming his current position, Duvall served as senior vice president of customer operations, safety and technical training for Southern Company Gas. In this role, he led the company's customer experience, resource management, safety and technical training operations to deliver an outstanding engagement with customers through uncompromising values of safety, trust, performance and commitment.

Robert returns to Virginia, where he served as president from 2014 to 2016. In previous roles, he served in a variety of engineering and operations positions, including as vice president of operations for Virginia Natural Gas and managing director of field operations for Atlanta Gas Light. Duvall joined Southern Company Gas in 1984 as a distribution engineer for Atlanta Gas Light.



Chris Kyle
VP, Industry Affairs and Regulatory
Shenandoah Telecommunications Company

Mr. Kyle serves as Vice President Industry Affairs and Regulatory. He is responsible for negotiating programming agreements and is the primary contact with local, state, and federal legislators and regulators. He joined the company in 2003, and has led projects in acquisitions, business development, long-range planning and Shentel Cable marketing and sales. Mr. Kyle began his career in 1994, and has experience in telecommunications, consumer products and investment banking. He earned a bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon College and a master's degree from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia, and has held positions at Cable & Wireless, Broadslate and Craigie, Inc. (BB&T).of Future of Hampton Roads. He and his wife Linda reside in Norfolk with their two children.



Doug Smith
President & CEO
Hampton Roads Alliance

Doug Smith joined the Hampton Roads Alliance as President & CEO in September of 2019. He oversees the staff of business development, business intelligence and marketing professionals and leads the operations of the region's economic development organization that represents 11 municipalities and over 70 private sector investors. Doug and the entire Alliance staff work closely with the state and local governments and the private sector to assist international and domestic companies with investment projects, expansions, and relocations.

Doug, a native of Portsmouth, has lived and worked in Hampton Roads for the majority of his life. He was appointed as City Manager in the City of Norfolk in June 2017 after serving in the position for seven months as interim. His previous public sector experiences include serving as Deputy City Manager in the City of Virginia Beach and as Deputy City Manager, Chief Plans and Policy Officer, and Economic Development Director in the City of Portsmouth. In 2006, he was elected to Portsmouth City Council where he served four years and gained regional experience as commissioner for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

In the private sector, Doug served as President & CEO of Kaufman & Canoles Consulting, where he counseled national and local developers, municipalities, higher education institutions and corporations. Doug began his career in 1985 as a banker at First Union Bank (now part of Wells Fargo) where he worked for 12 years and in his last role there, he managed 31 offices across Hampton Roads.

Smith is a graduate of Norfolk Academy and earned a B.A. in History from the University of Virginia. He held previous positions as Vice Chair on the Alliance's Board of Directors, Chair of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) of Hampton Roads and Chair of Future of Hampton Roads. He and his wife Linda reside in Norfolk with their two children.



John Hewa, P.E., Dr. Eng.
President and CEO
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

John D. Hewa is REC's President and Chief Executive Officer. Hewa has more than 20 years of leadership experience in the electric utility industry with an emphasis in technology and management of public and cooperative power utilities.

His experience also spans technical and executive roles managing electric, water, wastewater, and wireless and fiber optic telecommunications systems. Hewa holds a deep appreciation for the cooperative business model.

He has served as the CEO of electric cooperatives in Texas and Florida and as vice president of research, engineering, and technical services at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Arlington, Virginia. At NRECA, Hewa and his teams worked to advance the adoption of beneficial smart grid technologies among the nation's electric cooperatives focusing on reliable, resilient, and clean and distributed energy tech adoption. At NRECA, he also worked with federal agencies including the RUS and DOE to address co-op technical regulatory issues. Prior to his cooperative career, Hewa managed the utilities department for the City of Manassas, Va. and served as director of engineering for BTES, an electricity distributor in the Tennessee Valley region.

Hewa serves on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Energy Storage Association, a non-profit organization in Washington, working with utilities, industry, and stakeholders to promote the adoption of energy storage technologies. From 2013-2020, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Smart Electric Power Alliance, an educational non-profit headquartered in Washington, DC, working to advance the integration of clean energy solutions and smart technologies into the grid. Hewa is a director on the Board of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce looking out for Virginia's businesses interests and is a Board member of the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance promoting economic development across the region.

Hewa holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering and a Master of Science in engineering management from the University of Tennessee. He also earned his Doctor of Engineering at George Washington University focusing on engineering management, researching, and modeling energy storage for electric cooperatives in the PJM structured wholesale electricity market. Hewa is a registered professional engineer.



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