MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Jonathon Fite

Senior Lecturer; Founding Partner, KMF Investments

University of North Texas / KMF Investments

SESSION

Opening Chair Remarks; Financial Markets Update

BIO

Jonathon Fite joined the University of North Texas in 2009 and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in logistics strategy, supply chain analytics, value investing, and operations management. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Supply Chain Management and serves as an advisor for the Operations Management program.

Jonathon is a founding Partner of KMF Investments, a value-oriented investment firm focused on deeply undervalued companies. Prior to founding KMF in 2008, he spent nearly 10 years as a strategic consultant at Accenture, advising Fortune 500 clients on initiatives to improve shareholder value, including mergers and acquisitions, supply chain operations, and process reengineering. He graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Industrial Engineering.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Melissa Simpson

President

Western Energy Alliance

SESSION

Industry Keynote - Politics, Policy and Permitting

BIO

Melissa Simpson advocates for permitting certainty on behalf of Western Energy Alliance. She has an extensive career in natural resources, conservation, and energy policy that spans across private-sector, government, and non-governmental organizations. Prior to joining the Alliance, she was the director of global government affairs at Sempra, heavily focused on liquified natural gas (LNG) exports and emissions verification and reporting. Before her time at Sempra, she served as deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources at the Department of State in the first Trump Administration, leading efforts on cross-border permitting for hydrocarbons. During the George W. Bush Administration, she served as deputy under secretary of Natural Resources and Environment at the U.S. Department of Agriculture where she supervised energy and wildlife policy directives and regulations for the U.S. Forest Service. She also served as counselor to the assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the Department of the Interior, where she developed strategies to expedite oil and natural gas permitting on public lands through collaboration with multiple-use conservation groups.

Between her years of service in government, Melissa was the director of government affairs and science-based conservation at Safari Club International and a consultant for independent oil and natural gas companies.

She serves on the boards of Mountain States Legal Foundation, The Great Outdoors Fund, and the Western Caucus Foundation.

She is a native Coloradan, holding a JD from Creighton University School of Law and a BS in political science from Colorado State University.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



David Kirsch

Managing Director, Oil, Gas, and Chemicals Sector
EY

SESSION
Global Macro: Energy Markets

BIO

David is a Managing Director in Ernst & Young LLP's Oil, Gas, and Chemicals Sector, focusing on issues of energy convergence across producers and consumers. David has over thirty years experience in the nexus of the energy industry, global economics, and international politics. He serves teams throughout the energy value chain, manufacturing and consumer sectors, and the financial sector.

David's primary role is heading up commercial insights and activation to support global teams engaged in scenario planning, portfolio optimization, capital allocation and M&A strategies. Because of the significant effects of disruptions in oil, gas, and chemicals to sectors further downstream, David has also supported risk, planning, capital allocation, and stakeholder engagement across a broad range of sectors.

Prior to joining EY, David was the Managing Director of Research and Advisory, an independent arm of Energy Intelligence for six years, developing client service offerings in strategic planning, competitive benchmarking, and country risk for oil and gas companies. He worked from 2006-2011 at PFC Energy as the Director of the Markets and Country Strategies Group.

David started his career at the U.S. Department of State, serving 16 years as Foreign Affairs Analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. His primary analytic responsibilities included global energy markets, Middle Eastern economic development and Persian Gulf stability issues.

David received a B.A. in Economics and a B.A. in International Studies from the American University in Washington, DC. He also earned a Master's in Public Policy from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Jonathan W. Duersch

Associate Chief Accountant, Office of the Chief Accountant
U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission

SESSION
SEC Update

BIO

Jon serves as an Associate Chief Accountant in the Office of the Chief Accountant at the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. With 22 years at the Commission, Jon leads the evaluation and resolution of complex and emerging accounting questions raised by public and private companies, audit firms, and internal SEC divisions. Jon is the Office of the Chief Accountant's topic leader for debt-equity and oil and gas related matters and is instrumental in evaluating accounting implications of various Commission rulemaking projects as well as evaluating various FASB and IASB standard-setting projects.

Prior to joining the SEC, Jon was a Manager in Assurance Services at Tanner LC in Salt Lake City, Utah. Jon is a CPA and holds both B.S. and master's degrees in accounting from Utah State University.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Eshwar Krishnan

Founder & Managing Partner

Xalta

SESSION

Xalta Technology Demo

BIO

Eshwar is the Founder & Managing Partner of Xalta, bringing over 25 years of experience in business process management, process reengineering, and enterprise automation. He focuses on helping organizations rethink and modernize business operations through Agentic AI, intelligent automation, and low-code technologies. At Energy Horizon 2026, he will share how these technologies can address practical operational challenges in the oil and gas industry.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Russell Youngblood

Senior Solution Architect

OutSystems

SESSION

Xalta Technology Demo

BIO

Russell is a Senior Solution Architect at OutSystems, specializing in enterprise application development and AI-powered solutions. He works closely with customers and partners to translate business challenges into practical, scalable technology solutions. At Energy Horizon 2026, he will demonstrate how the OutSystems platform enables organizations to build and deploy AI-powered business applications.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Kait Dinunzio

Global Transformation and Operations Executive
Pyxis Group

SESSION
Stop Calling It a Retention Problem

BIO

Kait Dinunzio is a global transformation and operations executive known for turning complex strategy into action and making change happen. For more than two decades, she has led and advised organizations through growth, disruption and transformation across the energy sector and other asset-intensive industries, from refinery carve-outs and M&A integration to operating model redesign, enterprise technology transformation and operational excellence.

Her work increasingly focuses on a question facing leaders across the energy industry: as the work changes, how must the organization and its people change with it?

Kait works with executives at the point where strategy has to become execution. Her work addresses the interconnected pressures of AI and automation, workforce transition, institutional knowledge and succession, the intergenerational workforce, evolving leadership expectations and increasingly complex operating environments. She examines how leadership, capability, technology, governance, decision-making and operations must move together for transformation to take hold.

Known for saying the quiet parts out loud, Kait challenges established assumptions, asks the questions organizations often avoid, and helps leaders identify what is actually preventing change from happening. Her approach is grounded in a simple belief: sustainable performance depends not only on having the right strategy, but on building an organization capable of executing it.

Kait is also the author of Unbreakable and founder of a growing movement centered on what it means to become unbreakable. Her work challenges people and leaders to take ownership, make deliberate choices under pressure, and recognize their influence on the people and environments around them because organizations become stronger when their people are equipped not simply to withstand change, but to think, adapt, lead and perform through it.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Jose Lineros

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting
University of North Texas

SESSION
Generative AI and Cybersecurity: Emerging Threats and Defenses (Moderator)

BIO

Jose Lineros is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Accounting at the University of North Texas, where he teaches AIS, ERP, IT Audit, and Internal Audit. He previously taught MIS and computer science at UTD, Texas A&M University-Commerce, and Brookhaven. He holds a PhD in Higher Education: Educational Psychology from the University of North Texas, a Master's in Telecommunications from the University of Dallas, and a BBA in Accounting from the University of Texas at Arlington. His credentials include CISA, CPA, CIA, CFE, CRISC, CSX, and Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist.

His professional experience includes IT audit work at TXU Corporation involving SCADA systems, power plants, automated meter reading systems, network penetration testing, and technology implementation projects. At ExxonMobil, he worked in IT, financial, and operational audit and held accounting responsibilities involving gas plants and offshore royalty and working-interest allocations. He has published and lectured on emerging technologies, blockchain, mobile device security, Wi-Fi architecture vulnerabilities, IT audit, and related business implications.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Shad Higdon

Principal
Deloitte & Touche LLP

SESSION
Generative AI and Cybersecurity: Emerging Threats and Defenses

BIO

Shad Higdon is a Principal at Deloitte & Touche LLP based in Houston, with more than 30 years of experience in internal audit, technology and business process consulting, cybersecurity, and governance across multiple industries. His current responsibilities include supporting attestation engagements focused on internal controls and information technology, developing and updating firm guidance related to IT internal controls, and engaging with regulators. He has presented at ISACA and the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and has served as a guest lecturer at several universities on risk, governance, internal controls, and IT audit.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Jesus Vega, CISSP

Cybersecurity Managing Director
Whitley Penn

SESSION

Generative AI and Cybersecurity: Emerging Threats and Defenses

BIO

Jesus Vega, CISSP, is a Cybersecurity Managing Director with nearly 20 years of experience in information technology, cybersecurity, risk management, and compliance. He advises organizations on cybersecurity governance, enterprise risk management, and compliance programs, helping align security initiatives with business objectives while reducing risk. Jesus has extensive experience leading security, IT operations, and compliance teams, and assisting clients with frameworks including SOC, NIST CSF, PCI DSS, ISO 27001, HITRUST, HIPAA, and cloud security standards. A trusted advisor to executives and boards, he is also a frequent speaker on cybersecurity strategy, AI risk, cloud security, and emerging threats.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Taylor Peruso

Oil and Gas Sector Resident, Americas Professional Practice Group
EY

SESSION
Hot Topics in Financial Reporting and Accounting

BIO

Taylor currently serves as the Oil and Gas Sector Resident in EY's Americas Professional Practice Group. In this role, she provides support to oil and gas account teams through preparing oil and gas-specific technical accounting firm publications and enablement, facilitating internal webcasts to provide industry insight and accounting updates, and conducting presentations to clients and industry associations. Prior to her role in Professional Practice, Taylor worked in EY's assurance practice in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, serving companies in the oil and gas sector and others. Taylor has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Saint Francis University and is a licensed CPA in Pennsylvania. Taylor is a member of the AICPA.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Rohit Kumar

Principal and Co-Leader, Washington National Tax Services

PwC

SESSION

Washington Policy Landscape: Post-Election Outlook

BIO

Mr. Kumar is a principal and Co-Leader of PwC's Washington National Tax Office. In his role, Mr. Kumar advises clients on all aspects of domestic policy including tax policy. His insights and knowledge enable companies to assess critical policy issues more effectively and develop legislative strategies to address those issues from both a technical and political perspective.

Prior to joining PwC, Mr. Kumar served as the Domestic Policy Director and Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

He served 11 consecutive years in the Office of the Republican Leader for three different senators, having previously been Director of Policy and Senior Counsel to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Senior Policy Advisor and General Counsel for Senate GOP Leader Trent Lott. In all of these roles, Mr. Kumar worked in close collaboration with Senate leaders in developing and implementing all aspects of domestic policy including tax, trade, budget, and health care. Mr. Kumar also held positions in the Office of Senator Phil Gramm as Legislative Director and Chief Counsel, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs as Deputy Chief Republican Counsel and clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Mr. Kumar has been named in Roll Call as one of the fifty most influential staffers for mastery of policy and procedure and access to decision makers at key times. He was described in the Washington Post publication Who Runs Gov as "an expert in both politics and policy" and also listed in the Almanac of the Unelected as an expert in tax, trade, banking/financial services and immigration.

Mr. Kumar received his J.D. from the University of Virginia. He graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Duke University.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Michael N. Kennedy

CEO and President
Antero Resources and Antero Midstream

SESSION
Industry Keynote - Fireside Chat

BIO

Michael Kennedy has over 30 years of experience in the energy industry. Mr. Kennedy currently serves as CEO and President of Antero Resources and Antero Midstream. He previously served as Chief Financial Officer of Antero Resources and Senior Vice President-Finance of Antero Midstream from 2021 to 2025. Mr. Kennedy joined Antero in 2013, serving in roles of increasing responsibility, including Chief Financial Officer of Antero Midstream.

From 2009 to 2013, Mr. Kennedy served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Forest Oil Corporation and in various financial positions from when he joined the company in 2001.

Prior to that, Mr. Kennedy served as an auditor with Arthur Andersen, focusing on the Natural Resources industry.

Mr. Kennedy graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with a degree in Accounting.



Lindsay Holliday

Senior Director

Riveron

SESSION

Industry Keynote - Fireside Chat (Moderator)

BIO

Lindsay Holliday is a Senior Director with Riveron. She has 20+ years of experience in accounting and financial leadership roles, serving clients in both an advisory and audit capacity. She has significant experience with both public and private companies in the industry, having assisted companies with accounting and financial reporting matters including mergers and acquisitions and registration statements.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Bill Pollard

Partner, National Office Fraud Risk Center

Deloitte & Touche LLP

SESSION

Ethics Discussion

BIO

Bill Pollard is a Partner in Deloitte & Touche's National Office within the Fraud Risk Center serving as a Fraud Specialist for the Firm. Prior to his current role, he was part of the Fraud & Financial Crime practice in Chicago, Illinois and was the Midwest FCPA Practice Leader. Bill has led and conducted a broad range of corruption, forensic accounting and financial fraud investigations for private and public companies, government, and private individuals. Bill started his career in public accounting providing accounting, auditing, and financial reporting services to clients in a variety of industries.

Bill has spent over 32 years providing forensic accounting services. The engagements have involved complex accounting and financial related issues both domestically and across the globe. In addition, he has testified in deposition as an expert witness and regularly consulted with clients on compliance, controls and regulatory matters.

Bill is a graduate of the University of Illinois Chicago with a BS in Accountancy. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified in Financial Forensics and a Certified Fraud Examiner. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Illinois Society of CPAs, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners National and Chicago Chapters, and the Institute of Internal Auditors. In addition, he has written many articles on the topic of fraud and FCPA and has spoken throughout the country on various fraud, compliance and ethics topics.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Jasmine Fehlman

Senior Manager and Fraud Specialist, National Office
Deloitte & Touche LLP

SESSION
Ethics Discussion

BIO

Jasmine Fehlman is a Senior Manager and Fraud Specialist in Deloitte & Touche LLP's National Office. She has more than 14 years of experience in forensic accounting, fraud risk management, fraud prevention consulting, audit support, and broader risk management. She has helped clients across industries assess fraud and corruption risks and has led a range of anti-fraud advisory engagements.

She advises management and internal audit teams on fraud risk assessments, the adequacy of fraud risk coverage, and relevant fraud schemes and responsive controls. Her work helps organizations operationalize fraud risk programs, strengthen governance, and clearly define ownership across the first, second, and third lines.

Jasmine has led and supported fraud investigations and anti-bribery and corruption matters. She applies a multidisciplinary approach to investigations, using analytics, business intelligence, and forensic technology to assess allegations, identify relevant facts, and quantify the financial impact of potential wrongdoing.

Jasmine is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in California and a Certified Fraud Examiner. She earned a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accountancy from the University of Notre Dame. She is a frequent speaker on fraud and ethics topics at conferences and professional forums nationwide.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Mike Bock

Co-Founder, President and CFO
Petrie Partners

SESSION
Private Capital Markets Update

BIO

Mike Bock is a Co-founder of Petrie Partners. Prior to forming the bank with Jon Hughes and Andy Rapp, Mike was Head of Corporate Finance at Petrie Parkman & Co. and a member of its Board of Directors when the firm merged into Merrill Lynch / Bank of America in 2006.

Mike began his investment banking career in 1987 at Shearson Lehman Brothers, working in New York City. Mike joined Petrie Parkman in 1993 and served in the Corporate Finance group during his tenure, ultimately as head of the group. Mike has worked on a variety of public and private financings, both equity and debt, for natural resources companies. During his career, Mike has served as a lead banker on more than 100 financing transactions, raising more than $20 billion, with particular emphasis on private placements, drilling joint ventures and initial public offerings as well as corporate and project financing for the United States LNG business. More recently, Mike has worked on energy transition financing, including carbon sequestration, battery storage and hydrogen.

Mike earned a bachelor of arts degree, cum laude, from Harvard University. He is a CFA charter holder and a member of the CFA Institute.

Mike is Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Bonfils-Stanton Foundation that gives grants and fellowships to advance the arts and inspire creative leadership in Denver. He is also an Honorary Director of Opera Colorado and President of the Opera Colorado Foundation.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Dave Loucks

Principal, Complex Financial Reporting
Opportune

SESSION

Peeling Back the Reserve Report to Its Component Parts

BIO

Dave Loucks is a Principal in the Complex Financial Reporting practice at Opportune based in Denver where he is primarily responsible for assisting clients with financial reporting for oil and gas operations. Dave is one of the country's foremost experts regarding the reporting of asset retirement obligations (ARO) and the standardized measure of oil and gas (SMOG). Dave and his team developed and now implement the proprietary Assent 143 (ARO) and Assent Leases software applications. Before joining Opportune in 2009, Dave spent 14 years in public accounting, where he managed the audit engagements of clients in the energy and software industries. He also was the CFO of an INC 500 software company from 1998 to 2000.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Tanner Owens

Severance Tax Practice Lead
Weaver

SESSION
State and Local Sales Tax Update

BIO

Tanner has more than 12 years of public accounting experience and leads Weaver's Severance Tax Practice. His experience includes compliance and refund recovery engagements for upstream oil and gas clients across multiple state and local agencies. Tanner directs marketing cost and incentive reviews for various oil and gas clients and assists with audit defense for oil and gas clients against state and local agencies. A certified public accountant (CPA) in Texas, Tanner is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TXCPA) and the Houston chapter of the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies (COPAS).

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Patrick Crumpton

Property Tax Consultant
Weaver

SESSION
State and Local Sales Tax Update

BIO

Patrick has more than 16 years of experience in tax consulting services. Throughout his career, he has handled valuations, negotiations and strategies that reduce tax burdens and protect client interests. He leads teams that manage clients across multiple states, ensuring accuracy, compliance and strong representation with taxing authorities. His work has spanned upstream properties, midstream operations, and downstream operations, with a focus on driving measurable savings and long-term client value. Patrick is a licensed Senior Property Tax consultant through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Cat Hasley

Principal Director, Strategy & Consulting
Accenture

SESSION
Generative AI for Finance and Accounting

BIO

Cat Hasley is a Principal Director in Accenture's Strategy & Consulting practice and a leader in Controllership and Finance Transformation. A former corporate Controller with more than 20 years of experience, Cat advises CFOs and finance executives on how to modernize the controllership function through operating model transformation, process innovation, and digital technologies. She is known for helping organizations connect finance strategy, technology, and business objectives to improve performance, strengthen governance, and accelerate value realization from transformation investments.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Kurt Lowery

Partner, Tax - Energy
Weaver

SESSION
Year-End Energy Tax Update

BIO

Kurt has more than 13 years of public accounting experience with a concentration on federal and state tax compliance and consulting for partnerships, S-Corporations and limited liability companies. He has extensive experience in the energy industry with a focus on upstream and midstream oil and gas companies and has also served clients in the real estate, manufacturing and distribution, and professional services industries. Kurt is a member Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TXCPA), the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies (COPAS).

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Teresa Garza, CPA

Partner, Tax - Energy

Weaver

SESSION

Year-End Energy Tax Update

BIO

Teresa Garza, CPA, has over 15 years of public accounting experience with a focus on tax planning and compliance for partnerships, corporations and S corporations in the midstream, upstream and renewable energy markets. She serves a variety of industries, which include private equity, manufacturing, distribution, retail and professional services. Teresa is highly skilled at delivering advice and consultation regarding complex tax matters, such as subchapter K, provision for income taxes, mergers and acquisitions, transactions, entity formation, accounting method changes, as well as international and multi-state filing requirements.

Teresa is a certified public accountant (CPA) in Texas, Kansas and Missouri. She is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TXCPA), Dallas chapter, Dallas Petroleum Club, and Young Professionals in Energy (YPE). In addition, Teresa holds several leadership roles at energy-related professional organizations. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies (COPAS), Center for Energy Accounting and Sustainability at the University of North Texas, Texas Energy Council (TEC) and the Women's Energy Network (WEN). She previously served on the boards of the Fort Worth Petroleum Accountants Society (FWPAS) and Women's Finance Exchange (WFE). Teresa graduated with a Master of Science in taxation and a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of North Texas.