



## Consumer Counsel Presents at 2016 Women’s Energy Summit

Friday, September 30, 2016



On September 20, 2016, Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz presented at the 2016 Women’s Energy Summit in Chicago. Consumer Counsel Katz presented as part of a panel entitled “Utility of the Future: Preparing for What Tomorrow Will Look Like Today.” She spoke about the energy management innovations available to Connecticut consumers, while also examining fundamental issues that remain for consumers such as paying their energy bills on time. She advocated for focusing on “smart grid” technologies that will help reduce costs for all consumers. Other notable speakers at the Summit included Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL), U.S. House of Representatives; Honorable Colette Honorable, Commissioner at the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission; and Susan Story, President and Chief Executive Officer of American Water.

The Women’s Energy Summit, Inc. was formed in October 2015 as a not-for-profit organization with the purpose to confront the gender gap in the energy industry. Spearheaded by Illinois Commerce Commissioner Sherina Maye Edwards, the Women’s Energy Summit provides a platform for women to discuss pertinent industry issues while solidifying the presence of women in the energy industry. Since the inaugural Women’s Energy Summit in 2014, the annual Summit has grown to join more than 200 women energy professionals from across the nation.

In 2015, a half-day Rising Star Forum was added to recognize stellar, up-and-coming women in the industry and provide them with career development advice from top level industry executives. This year, OCC Staff Attorney Lauren H. Bidra was nominated as a Rising Star, and she participated in the Rising Star Forum and attended the Women’s Energy Summit.

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