

**EXH. MFT-2
DOCKET UE-210795
2022 PSE CEIP
WITNESS: MARIEL THURASINGHAM**

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.
2021 Clean Energy Implementation Plan

Docket UE-210795

**FIRST EXHIBIT (PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS) TO
THE PREFILED RESPONSE TESTIMONY OF**

MARIEL THURASINGHAM

ON BEHALF OF NW ENERGY COALITION AND FRONT AND CENTERED

OCTOBER 10, 2022

MARIEL FERNÁNDEZ THURAISSINGHAM

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW AND POLICY PROFESSIONAL

Attorney-at-law admitted to practice in the State of New York. Sustainable development and policy expert with extensive experience applying critical thinking and creativity to innovative program design, strategic planning, government-civil society collaboration, lobbying and advocacy, regulatory oversight and compliance systems, capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation, and project management. Language skills in French (fluent) and Spanish (fluent).

EXPERIENCE

Front and Centered, Seattle, WA 2020-present

Clean Energy Policy Lead

Energy justice and policy specialist leading Front and Centered's commitment to advancing the clean and equitable energy system centering the interests of frontline communities, low income populations Black, Brown, Indigenous, and all People of Color in Washington who are historically disproportionately harmed by climate change.

- Support through research, representation, thought leadership and advocacy to advance just and equitable climate, social and economic policy in Washington.
- Coalition- and capacity-building for community leadership on progressive energy policies enabling an effective and enforceable legal and regulatory framework for environmental justice and climate change mitigation.
- Advocate for energy affordability and equitable distribution of benefits from a transition to clean and renewable energy in Washington under the Clean Energy Transformation Act
- Outreach and education for raising public awareness and inclusive practices for community engagement on critical energy issues at the intersection with power, health, security, resiliency, and individual to community well-being.

Independent Consulting – Development, Environmental Law and Policy 2018 – 2020

Review proposals, budgets and final contracts for development projects. Engage programming stakeholders in needs assessment to establish baseline, clarify objectives and coordinate action. Develop program models, advise on strategy, and outline cross-sector partnership opportunities for environmental non-profits.

- Leading communication and research for Zero Waste Washington project to coordinate information sharing for zero waste and recycling grassroots organizations statewide.
- Generated internal report on climate advocacy and organizing outreach, promotion, and logistics for events to raise public awareness for Cascadia Climate Action.
- Developed tracking tool to measure real and perceived impacts of environmental policies and identified opportunities for client to design educational programming for communities.

Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc., Washington, DC 2016 – 2018

Rule of Law Specialist

Provided leadership assistance to transitioning project teams while identifying candidates and

partner organizations to provide support services. Wrote proposals to bid for rule of law programming contracts with USAID and other international agencies offering democracy and governance support to fragile states and countries with weak justice sector institutions. Provided remote and on-site technical support to active rule of law strengthening and anti-corruption projects in Afghanistan, Mali, Liberia, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Serbia, and Kosovo.

- Managed proposal teams, positioned staff, led program design strategy, and communicated with government officials, civil society leaders, and program specialists to produce business development bids for Moldova, Sri Lanka, Honduras, Colombia, and Myanmar.
- Coordinated grantee organizations, working groups and action networks to produce creative and inclusive messaging to disseminate information among populations with limited education and access to wellness resources.
- Developed outreach strategies, analyzed survey and field data on governance indicators, and marketed grant opportunities to local stakeholders.
- Researched issues relevant to strengthening rule of law, increasing access to justice, building governance capacity, and combatting corruption in justice and administrative institutions for quarterly reports to shareholders and clients on justice sector reform.

Justice for All Law Firm, Yangon, Burma/Myanmar 2013 – 2016
Legal Researcher and Project Manager

Negotiated and managed research, public education, advocacy, and legal aid service projects to promote access to justice and criminal justice sector reform. Worked with team of Myanmar legal professionals to design and conduct human rights workshops in 28 locations.

- Restructured organizational leadership and decision-making system and implemented new rules and protocols for operational efficiency, transparency, and optimal productivity.
- Completed report titled A Study in Myanmar Criminal Justice Sector Stakeholder Interests.
- Assisted curriculum development, program design, comparative legal analysis, and contributions to a citizens' rights handbook to raise awareness among Myanmar people of fundamental rights and encourage justice sector officials to adopt transparent practices.

British Council and Loka Ahlinn, Yangon, Myanmar 2014
Research Consultant

Supervised public opinion research, including designing survey tool, training data collectors, interviewing local civil society leaders, facilitating focus groups, and analyzing findings.

- Reported findings to civil society, international donors and implementing organizations, and government officials, including the Myanmar Parliament's Rule of Law Committee.

UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, Tanzania 2012
Legal Intern – Office of the Prosecutor

- Formulated legal arguments for prosecutorial brief challenging defendant Mathieu Ngirumpatse's appeal of his genocide conviction on the charge of joint criminal enterprise.

Open Society Justice Initiative, New York, NY 2012
Legal Research Intern

- Investigated state compliance with international and European anti-discrimination standards.

- Transcribed expert interviews about the 2012 United Nations High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law.

Supreme Court of New York, Commercial Division, New York, NY 2011
Judicial Intern in Chambers of the Honorable O. Peter Sherwood
New York State Bar Foundation 2011 Commercial Litigation Fellow

Collaborated with law clerks to produce comprehensive bench memoranda for the judge.
Reviewed substantive and procedural issues in commercial cases under New York law.

Neopolitan Lighthouse, Chicago, IL 2009 – 2010

Legal Advocate for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Guided over 100 clients on how to obtain protection orders in domestic violence court, with 98% of clients receiving protection orders. Performed research and tracked relevant legislation.

The Advocacy Lab, Human Rights Advocacy Program Instructor 2012 – 2013

Center for Court Innovation, Research Assistant 2013

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, Columbia University School of Law, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts - International Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL