



James Cargas

President, New Energy LLC

James Cargas has dedicated his life and professional career to implementing smart, sustainable, affordable, and renewable energy. New Energy reflects his persistence and commitment through its smart energy advice and the creation of sustainable solutions for its public and commercial clients.

Before founding New Energy LLC, James was the Senior Assistant City Attorney for Energy at the City of Houston from 2008 to 2019. Mayor Bill White hired him as the City's energy counsel responsible for all aspects of energy as well as some environmental, real estate, regulatory matters, and transactional matters. During the Recession, James facilitated the weatherization of over 13,000 low and modest income homes resulting in each family realizing \$60 to \$125 in monthly savings.

While serving Mayor Annise Parker James negotiated an innovative three-party, twenty-year, 50 megawatt solar power purchase agreement. More recently, he served Mayor Sylvester Turner, where he earned Houston the #8 spot on EPA's top 100 list of green power users, and implemented a wide variety of energy efficiency projects. During his tenure, James reduced the City's annual power budget from \$120M to \$90M.

James graduated from the University of Michigan in 1988 and served Michigan Congressman David E. Bonior as Deputy Press Secretary. In 1992, he graduated from The American University's Washington College of Law where he served as President of the Environmental Law Society. During law school, he worked in the Solicitor's Office at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In summer of 1992, he participated in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro – the first Earth Summit.

James subsequently held positions in a large DC law firm and as environmental counsel to a major interstate pipeline company. In 1998, he left the private sector to join the Clinton-Gore White House at the President's Council on Sustainable Development. He finished out the

Administration's term working for Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson at the U.S. Department of Energy. When Bill Richardson returned to New Mexico to become Governor, James moved to the nation's Energy Capital to become Deputy Director of the North American Energy Standards Board.

His commitment to our community includes serving as a board member at the Citizens Environmental Coalition, Vice President of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) Chapter No. 29, and Fellow at the Texas Bar Foundation. He is the former President of the Energy Bar Association's Houston Chapter and remains a board member. When James ran for the United States Congress in 2012, 2014, and 2016 in Houston's Energy Corridor, he earned the Chronicle's endorsement each time.

James is admitted to practice law in Texas, Washington DC, Michigan, West Virginia, and the United States Supreme Court.