



ASHB
Smart Home Council

Leadership

Kenneth Wacks, Ph.D. **Smart Home Council Chair**

Dr. Wacks has been a pioneer in establishing the home systems industry and a management advisor to more than 150 clients worldwide. His clients range from start-ups to the Fortune 500. Dr. Wacks was appointed by the United States Department of Energy to serve four terms on the GridWise® Architecture Council, focusing on the grid interface to customer equipment including DER (local power from wind, solar, and storage) managed automatically with artificial intelligence (AI). He is a founding member of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel, now part of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA). He chairs the Customer Grid Edge committee at the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC). The member nations of ISO/IEC have elected Dr. Wacks chair of the committee developing international home and building system standards for eight terms. He received the IEC 1906 Award commemorating the founding of the IEC in 1906 and honoring experts whose work is fundamental to world standards. He has also written American National Standards in home automation and networked appliances for the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), where he chairs the energy management standards committee. Dr. Wacks is a featured contributor to the CABA Journal (formerly called iHomes & Buildings) and a prolific author (more than 300 papers and presentations). He wrote the book Home Automation and Utility Customer Services. As an entrepreneur at a venture-backed start-up, he developed UNIX workstations for the semiconductor industry. Dr. Wacks received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from MIT as a Hertz Fellow and studied at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Charlie Derk **Smart Home Council Vice-Chair**

Charlie Derk is the Vice President of Strategy for Legrand's Building Controls Division. His responsibilities include mergers and acquisitions as well as focusing on the strategic direction for residential and commercial lighting control products including Wattstopper, Encelium, and Vantage. Charlie has been working with lighting and shading control products for the past 25 years holding positions in engineering, product management, marketing and sales at Lutron and Crestron. Charlie holds a degree in Computer Science and is currently based in eastern Pennsylvania.

Joshua Gerena **Smart Home Council Vice-Chair**

Joshua Gerena is an accomplished professional, currently serving as the Segment Development Manager for commercial real estate (CRE) at Axis Communications for the Americas. In this pivotal role, he plays a key part in formulating and executing strategies to enhance Axis' presence across commercial, multi-tenant, and residential sectors. With over two decades of practical experience spanning low voltage, electrical, and electronic manufacturing industries, Josh possesses a deep understanding of commercial audio, pro audio, video, access control, and intercom systems. His primary focus is on leveraging smart home and smart building technologies to drive industry innovation.

Josh has held influential roles across various sectors of the industry. He has served as a Sales Director, Sales Manager, and partner of a Rep firm, where he played a pivotal role in driving sales growth and developing strategic partnerships. Furthermore, Josh has a track record of success in building entire sales teams for different manufacturers, showcasing his expertise in team leadership and development.

Throughout his career, Josh has been instrumental in providing cutting-edge technology solutions to organizations of all sizes throughout the Americas. His dedication to excellence is evidenced by an extensive array of credentials and certifications, including MCSE, MCSA, MOSS, CCNP, 2N Certified, Cisco CCNA, and CCNP, supplemented by further Genetec certifications.

Additionally, Joshua Gerena is an alumnus of the Institute of Audio Research in NYC, where he refined his skills and knowledge in audio engineering, contributing to his expertise in the field.