

People connected with Paradigm BioAviation—Preliminary Findings

The four people listed on the website all live in the UK, but in this rough summary of preliminary findings, I'm going to focus first on the married couple and on a Bloomington local named Orval Yarger, because they seem to be the drivers behind this initiative. I will cover other company members at the end.

Alan Robinson – CEO--is **Alan Stuart Macdonald Robinson**, b. 1961. He has owned/started/been a member of several companies, most of which were dissolved in March 2008.

He and his wife, **Gail Carolyn Farrin Robinson**--Projects Director—b. 1950, have mostly parallel work histories and have been involved together in most of the same companies (more details to come in full version).

Alan and Gail lost a suit in 2007 when they were Directors of Convergence Group, and they were held personally liable for “dishonestly” pursuing a “hopeless counterclaim.”

<http://www.mondaq.com/x/58890/Commercial/Commercial+Dispute+Resolution+Briefing+April+2008>

Quoted from the preceding source:

DIRECTORS

Director found personally liable for pursuing company's hopeless claim

Chantrey Vellacott v (1) Convergence Group plc (2) Convergence Group International SA (3) Alan Stuart Macdonald Robinson (4) Gail Farrin Robinson*

The High Court considered this case to be sufficiently exceptional to warrant making a director personally liable for costs to be paid by the first respondent company. The third respondent, Mr McDonald, and his wife, former directors of the Convergence Group plc, had instructed the applicant accountancy firm in relation to a telecommunications project in Greece. Following the collapse of the deal due to lack of finance, the accountancy firm sought to recover its fees. Convergence brought a

counterclaim for professional negligence alleging that the structure put in place by the accountancy firm to facilitate the deal caused the lack of finance and the collapse of the deal. This counterclaim was struck out when Convergence went into administration. The accountancy firm then sought to recover costs from Mr and Mrs McDonald under section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981. The Court held that Convergence had pursued a "hopeless counterclaim" on the instructions of and for the benefit of their controlling director, Mr McDonald, who was made personally liable, jointly and severally with Convergence, to pay the costs of the proceedings on an indemnity basis. The Court held that he had dishonestly put forward a case which had no chance of success. In addition, the negligence claim was a disproportionately large counterclaim in response to a modest claim by the accountancy firm to recover its fees.

*Ch D, 31 July 2007 Lawtel

One odd thing about this report of the case is that the Robinsons are named in the title but referred to throughout as "Mr. and Mrs. McDonald," which isn't even the correct spelling of Macdonald.

Here's more detail on the same case:

<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Ch/2007/1774.html>

If going "into administration" means going into bankruptcy or receivership, then that's what happened to their Convergence company. Keep this in mind when you read about Orval Yarger below.

Losing the suit may be why they dissolved most of their companies in March 2008. I'm still working out the complicated history of their many companies, and I'll have more detail in the full draft later.

One of the companies, Amador Limited, lists Gail as chairman in this resolution to "wind up" the company voluntarily in March 2010.

[https://www.thegazette.co.uk/notice/L-59357-1063654.](https://www.thegazette.co.uk/notice/L-59357-1063654)

Acc to this notice of its final meeting of creditors, the company was insolvent:

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/notice/L-59684-1290691>

I believe the Robinsons have at least three grown children, including two sons, Alan Stuart Robinson and Oliver James Robinson, who are members of affiliated Paradigm companies.

The reason the Robinsons have chosen Bloomington as their first site for a waste-to-energy plant seems to be the next person.

Orval Jens Yarger, current pilot with Image Air and former owner of the Alamo II college bookstore, is listed as a member of both Paradigm BioAviation and its parent company in the UK, Paradigm Energies Equity Partners.

According to a description of Paradigm BioAviation on the Environmental Expert website, Paradigm, which was incorporated in either 2010 or 2012 (depending on source and whether the company is P. BioAviation or P. Energies EP), has a “Longstanding aviation presence” in central Illinois. I assume this presence must refer to Yarger. <http://www.environmental-expert.com/companies/paradigm-bioaviation-39060>.

Yarger’s Connections to the Robinsons

Yarger has business connections to Robinson through aviation going back to at least 2009. Yarger and Alan Robinson are the only “designated” LLP members of Paradigm Energies Equity Partners; there are 17 additional “non-designated” members, acc to <http://companies.findthebest.co.uk/l/2246453/Paradigm-Energies-Equity-Partners-Llp-in-London-United-Kingdom>

Yarger is not only a current member of Paradigm BioAviation, but he was also a member of two previous Robinson ventures, both of which seem to be now dissolved. The first was Erraf Ltd., in Reigate, Surrey, UK, in which he is listed as a Director (Pilot) for the period April 2009 to March 2013.

<http://www.companydirectorcheck.com/orval-jens-yarger-2>

The same source lists Yarger as a Director (Pilot) since July 2009 of Convergence International Airports Organisation Limited, at the identical address, with a note that the company is under a “proposal to strike off,” apparently the British term for dissolve. Another source shows Yarger appointed in July 2009 as a Company Officer and in April 2010 as Company Secretary of Convergence, which conducted

“service activities incidental to air transportation,” according to <http://directors.findthebest.co.uk/l/6132537/Orval-Jens-Yarger>.

According to Company Check, Convergence International Airports Organisation (or CIAO) is dissolved. <http://companycheck.co.uk/company/05001252>
Convergence is the name of a whole group of Robinson ventures, including the one that got sued.

In this December 2012 *Pantagraph* article about Paradigm, Yarger defers questions to Robinson: http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/company-wants-to-produce-alternative-jet-fuel-in-bloomington-normal/article_eebb5e26-3f4e-11e2-8c32-001a4bcf887a.html

Background Info on Yarger

Yarger along with three other people inherited the Alamo II college bookstore on N. Main and probably still owns the building, as well as other downtown properties. The business was sold to the Nebraska Book Co. in 2005. Yarger sued the city in 2005 for claiming some of his property through eminent domain; he lost but was paid more than he'd just bought it for a few days earlier. He made \$10K on the deal, acc to <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1453900/posts>.

This article reports some remodeling undertaken by Yarger in 2003. <http://www.videtteonline.com/index.php/2003/09/29/alamo-ii-improvements-slow-steady/>

The other two directors of Paradigm BioAviation listed on the website are:

Michael Fearfield – Director. **Michael Andrew Fearfield**, b. 1938, is 76 years old and seems to be primarily a real estate manager in Staffordshire, UK. Since 2010, he's also been a director of Wergs Hall Property Management Ltd, which does real estate management on a fee or contract basis. He's been a member of Paradigm Energy Equity Partners LLP since May 2012.

James Brumwell – Director & General Counsel. In February of this year **James Edward Brumwell** left the Board of “Paradigm Energy Partners,” which has the same address as Paradigm Energies Equity Partners
<http://companycheck.co.uk/company/07363564>.

Although he may be no longer relevant, Brumwell is listed on the websites of three different law firms: Greenside Solutions, DWFM Beckman Solicitors, and Axiom Law.

Here’s the bio from Greenside:

BIO

James Brumwell LLB



James practiced as a real estate solicitor at London City firms Speechly Bircham and Stephenson Harwood and subsequently as a Partner with Davies Arnold Cooper. As a bi-lingual solicitor qualified to practice in both the UK and Spain, James specialised in real estate investment, development and projects work and was the liaison partner for DAC's Spanish offices.

In 2005 James left DAC to join Howard Holdings PLC as their European Managing Director and was responsible for their European operations throughout continental Europe including Spain, Italy, Poland and Portugal. These projects comprised a diverse portfolio worth nearly €2 billion of mixed use investments and developments including hotels, residential, leisure, shopping centres, inner city regeneration, parking, retail parks and airports.

James joined Greenside Solutions as a founding partner in 2009 and is responsible for the Continental European practice. In addition to his property and corporate experience James has also built up a strong Energy and Oil Supply connections through involvement with Bio Fuel manufacturers and working on large petroleum derivative product supply agreements with primary producers in the Middle East.

Quoted from <http://www.greensidesolutions.eu/bio/James-Brumwell.aspx>

Here's the bio from DWFM Beckman:



James Brumwell

James is an experienced commercial real estate lawyer with expertise in property development and investment, commercial agreements, projects, infrastructure and joint ventures. He specialises in commercial cross-border transactions with particular emphasis on the UK, Spain and South America.

He acts for a wide variety of international clients in diverse areas including energy, real estate projects, corporate commodities and investment.

James is bi-lingual in English and Spanish, was born in Chile and has lived for many years in different parts of Spain and South America. He was formerly a partner in two major City law firms in London and in Valencia, Spain.

<http://dwfmbeckman.com/team/consultants/james-brumwell/>

<http://www.axiomlaw.com/who-we-are/james.brumwell2#////james.brumwell2/>

<http://companycheck.co.uk/director/914891116/MR-JAMES-EDWARD-BRUMWELL>

In Paradigm's initial presentation to the City of Bloomington, two additional people were listed as part of the company, though they don't currently appear on the website.

Lester Vicary – “Director of Business Services”-- is also listed as a member of the UK parent company, Paradigm Energies Equity Partners. **Lester William Vicary, Jr.**, is an attorney in Peoria. I called him to ask about his connection to Paradigm, and after telling me he'd “had nothing to do them in 2-2 ½ years,” I asked how he'd gotten involved in the beginning. “I just met the guy. I don't even know who's running it now, OK?” And he hung up.

Here's a snippet about his background:

Journal Star (Peoria, Illinois) (Wed, 18 Jun 2003). Business People Column -- Lester William Vicary Jr., joined the law firm of Williams, Williams & Taylor, P.C., 139 E. Washington, East Peoria. Vicary's areas of concentration are wills, trusts, probate and real estate law. --

<http://www.engagingnews.us/select/Southern-Cellulose-Products-Inc.html>

Dr. Steven Johnson—“Director of Process Research and Technology Integration”-- is also listed as a member of the parent company, Paradigm Energies Equity Partners. Despite having a very common name, I haven't yet found any Dr. Steven Johnson who seems a logical candidate to be this person. There are many medical doctors and a few professors in disciplines that are unrelated to processing municipal solid waste (MSW) into liquid fuel.

In addition to Orval Yarger, another Bloomington person is working for Paradigm.

Rob Fazzini, retired banker and, until recently a Bloomington alderman, was hired by Paradigm BioAviation last winter and says he is the company's new President Designate, responsible for setting up the local office (which has an address at Image Air) and for increasing visibility of the company.

When his connection to Paradigm was revealed in the spring, he said there was no conflict of interest with his alderman duties as long as he recused himself from

relevant votes. http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/government-and-politics/fazzini-working-for-waste-to-fuel-company/article_46b96c54-e7f6-574b-aa38-3fe65137a701.html

Fazzini is mentioned negatively in this Vancouver news article for his dual role: <http://www.vancouverobserver.com/politics/commentary/waste-energy-spin-doctors-playbook>

Fazzini recently resigned as alderman due to the conflict of interest which earlier he denied: <http://www.centralillinoisproud.com/story/d/story/fazzini-resigns-from-bloomington-council/87431/MF0B3xzRP02gcDrgPPBgEg>

In this interview Fazzini calls himself President Designate: <http://www.wjbc.com/common/page.php?id=153173>

Robinson is not quoted anywhere in these articles. Since Fazzini's background is banking and politics, his role as President seems to be mainly PR.

One final piece of info at this stage: I spoke with Kenneth Liss, president of Andrews Environmental Engineering in Springfield, which is listed in the original proposal to the City of Bloomington as one of the expert partners with which Paradigm was working closely on its plans. Liss said his company is in a "stop-work" mode with Paradigm due to unpaid bills. He said it's not unusual for investors to run out of money in the early stages of a project like this, but that if Paradigm is already running out of money to pay its engineers before they even get to the siting fees, they may not be able to go forward.