MARCH 2ND-5TH, 2023

41st Public Interest Environmental Law Conference

FREE TO THE PUBLIC | REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.PIELC.ORG • EUGENE, OR
**WELCOME!**

Welcome to the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC), the premier annual gathering for environmentalists in the world! Now in its 41st year, PIELC unites thousands of activists, attorneys, students, scientists, and community members from over 50 countries to share their ideas, experience, and expertise. With keynote addresses, workshops, films, celebrations, and over 100 panels, PIELC is world-renowned for its energy, innovation, and inspiration. In 2011, PIELC received the Program of the Year Award from the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, and in 2013 PIELC received the American Bar Association Law Student Division’s Public Interest Award. The 2023 conference marks the first time since 2019 that PIELC will be held in person. Welcome back!

**PIELC 2023 | RECONNECTING AND TRANSITIONING TOGETHER**

We are thrilled to welcome back the 41st annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference to in-person programming in Eugene, Oregon. This year’s PIELC takes place from Thursday, March 2, 2023, to Sunday, March 5, 2023. PIELC will consist of panel and speaker programming, familiar to past attendees, with opportunities to socialize and collaborate after three years apart.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Reconnecting and Transitioning Together.” We are all working on reconnecting to each other after being apart for some time. This takes intentionality, grace, and a willingness to imagine new ways of sharing knowledge. At the same time, we are all working on changing our habits and systems to create a more just, sustainable future. We hope to emphasize that now, more than ever, we need to join hands and work together in solidarity to build a world we can all live in.

**WIFI GUEST ACCOUNT LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS**

Visitors can register themselves for access to the UO Wireless network and the internet.

1. On your computer or mobile device, select the “UO Guest” wireless network. You will be redirected to the UO Guest Connect page.
2. Scroll through the terms and conditions and select “accept”
3. You are now connected to the internet!

**QUESTIONS?**

Stop by the information desk, flag down a PIELC volunteer, or check our website at [www.pielc.org](http://www.pielc.org).
Land Air Water (LAW) is the world’s oldest environmental law student society. Student members from the University of Oregon School of Law organize the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference on a wholly volunteer basis. The conference is the premier annual gathering for environmentalists worldwide and is distinguished as the oldest and largest of its kind. To pull it off, PIELC Co-Directors, Coordinators, and LAW Officers plan year-round, and are joined by dozens of student volunteers who help with everything from running the information desk to providing attendees a place to stay. LAW members also sponsor speakers and events at the university and organize volunteer activities.

Friends of Land Air Water (FLAW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by LAW members in 1993. The board of directors consists of alumni of the University of Oregon School of Law. Its primary interest is the annual PIELC. FLAW also provides a summer stipend program for University of Oregon School of Law students working in unpaid positions in environmental law. To learn more, visit http://www.lawfriends.org/.

**Conference Co-Director; *Board Member**

**Special thanks to Land Air Water members for organizing the conference:**

- Jessie Gardner**
- Lauren Dorsey**
- Jack Dellorusso**
- Maddie Reese**
- Jillian Thayer**
- Keiran Hadley*
- Claire Mohney*
- Michelle Madsen*
- Nicolette Ohslen*
- Sierra Deak*
- Sammy Cho*
- Charity Martinez*
- Morgan McWilliams*
- Justin McCarthy*
- Will Stephens*
- Brad Mullen*
- Kieran McKee*
- Cole Barron*
- Claire Malone*
- Miranda Barfield*
- Chloe Harvell*
- Gaby Penvenne*
- Roses Laughlin*
- Kat Loden*
- Lisa Millstein*
- Kameron Schroeder
- Molly Hooks
- Georgia Christopoulos
- Edward Nuñez
- Beck Groff
- Jaimie Tucker
- Kirin Gay
- Martin Farrell
- Clark Barlowe
- Kevin Liu
- Savannah Bogard
- Oprah Jerome
- Dorie Sullivan
- Natalie Lenard
- Brian Marcille
- Hazel Stigwolt
- Liz Wiggins
- Abby Shearer
- Sam Bartoo
- Nathan Rice
- William Rath
- Tiffany Howell

- Savanna Bogard
- Sarena Casarez
- Simmone Landau
- Will Leroux
- Sebastian Hammond
- Philip Ebbers
- Daniella Griffin
- Jessenia Robinson
- Miranda Vermeer

LAW values diversity and equitable treatment of all people. LAW is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for everyone at PIELC, particularly those who have been historically marginalized. Intimidation or harassment of a person because of that person’s race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability will not be tolerated.

LAW also strives to provide a broad spectrum of opinions and asks attendees to respect the various viewpoints you will encounter at PIELC. Listen. Question. Engage. Debate. But always do so with respect. Social movements are made up of diverse alliances and viewpoints. Groups and individuals also have evolving stances and controversial positions on divisive issues within the environmental movement. Now more than ever we need open and lively debates and a willingness for groups and individuals to forge coalitions rather than retreat into separate spheres. The statements and opinions at PIELC belong solely to the individual speakers, and do not represent the position of the University of Oregon, Land Air Water, or Friends of Land Air Water. LAW requests that attendees respect the facilities, volunteers, and presenters that make PIELC possible.
The Many Nations Longhouse serves as a place of respite for American Indian Students at the University of Oregon as they navigate their academic endeavors. Its mission is to provide welcome, respecting the diversity of numerous American Indian cultures and beliefs. The Many Nations Longhouse is a place of community, welcome, peace, harmony, culture exchange, and of individual support.

**LONGHOUSE PROTOCOLS AND CODES OF CONDUCT**

- Compliance with applicable university and MNL rules and state and local law is required.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted: intoxicated individuals are not permitted in the MNL.
- Smoking is prohibited in accordance with OAR 571-050-0005.
- The use of controlled substances is prohibited.
- No swearing—use respectful language.
- Exchange of money between parties is prohibited inside the MNL.
- Audio recording and audiovisual and photography may not be used without permission.
- Use of candles is prohibited in the MNL.
- All parties are responsible for all clean up duties after use of the MNL.

Land Air Water would like to thank all board members from PIELC 2020-22 for adapting the conference online.

- Renee Seacor
- Grace Brahler
- Tom Housel
- Lindsey Hutchison**
- Sierra Waechter**
- Hillary Therien**
- Jess Butt**
- Rob Mellinger**
- Charles Lockwood**
- Gene McCarthy
- Ellen Ipsen
- Megan Sweeney**
- Zac Griffith
- Morgan Early

- Noah Mikell
- Mathew Bain
- Clayton Rowley
- Colin O’Brien
- Helen Toloza
- Peter Jensen**
- Bren Catt**
- Reza Sadeghzadeh**
- Jordan Sharp
- Natalie Daly
- Ana Colwell

**Conference Co-Director**

On behalf of PIELC 2023’s board members, we want to wish you a wonderful conference!
A MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS OF LAND AIR WATER (FLAW)

The Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) continues to exist because of the dedication and hard work of an all-volunteer group of full-time law students. Friends of Land Air Water (FLAW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by LAW members in 1993. The board of directors consists of alumni of the University of Oregon School of Law. Its primary interest is the annual PIELC. FLAW also provides a summer stipend program for University of Oregon School of Law students working in unpaid positions in environmental law. FLAW would like to express our gratitude to the student organizers and emphasize to participants that PIELC is in the process of rebuilding following the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year’s conference will be the first in-person PIELC since 2019, and the first PIELC being organized entirely by students who entered law school following PIELC’s pivot to a virtual event. While students typically devote a tremendous amount of time and effort to coordinating PIELC on top of the many demands of a full law school schedule, this year’s organizers have the added challenge of reshaping the conference to meet current needs and expectations without having experienced an in-person conference themselves. We applaud them for rising to the challenge with grit and creativity.

To honor PIELC’s more than 40 years serving this community, we invite your patience, grace, and understanding. This year’s conference will not be identical to past in-person conferences and we welcome this as an opportunity for PIELC to embrace greater equity and inclusivity. The sponsors hope to continue to offer a rich and diverse conference program that includes hybrid, in-person, and virtual opportunities to maintain PIELC’s wide accessibility in future years. We’re excited to reconnect and re-engage with you. Welcome back to PIELC!
The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and continue to make important contributions in their communities, at UO, across the land we now refer to as Oregon, and around the world.

We express our respect for all federally recognized Tribal Nations of Oregon. This includes the Burns Paiute Tribe; the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon; the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; the Coquille Indian Tribe; the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; and the Klamath Tribes. We also express our respect for all other displaced Indigenous peoples who call Oregon home.

This Land Acknowledgement was passed by the University of Oregon Senate. For more information, visit: https://senate.uoregon.edu/senates-land-acknowledgment
THURSDAY, MARCH 2
Career Fair, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.
University of Oregon School of Law
1515 Agate Street, Eugene, OR 97403

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
Yoga, 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.
UO Student Recreation Center
Mat Room 77
*If you have one, please bring your own yoga mat!

ENR Center Open House, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
UO Law School, Suite 225
All are welcome to stop by the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center.

Indigenous Voices: Call to Action, 1:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Join us in the UO Longhouse for a call-to-action led by members of the Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde. Limited capacity.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
Museum Tour, 10:45 a.m.
Museum of Natural and Cultural History
1680 E. 15th Ave
Tour is first come, first served. The museum will be open for conference attendees all day.

ENR Center Reception, 5:30 p.m.
Gerlinger Hall at the University of Oregon
All UO Law Students & Alumni invited.

CLDC’s Rebel Revelry, 6:00 p.m.
Eugene Carden Club
1645 High Street

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Cafe Mam Coffee, 8:00 a.m.–12:30 pm.
Law School Commons
Free coffee for anyone who brings their own mug! Mugs also available for purchase.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Film Fest!

SUNDAY, MARCH 5
Coffee & Pastries, 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.
Law School Commons
Come celebrate with us!

Join fellow PIELC attendees, community members, and UO Law students and faculty for a fun evening with food, drinks, networking, and fun! There will be a full vegan/vegetarian menu. The first 150 people will receive one free beverage ticket.

Friday, March 3
7:00-11:00pm

at Falling Sky Delicatessen

790 Blair Blvd.
Eugene, OR
97402

LIVE MUSIC FROM PETER BENJAMIN!
PIELC 2023

THURSDAY

8:00 a.m. -- Registration Opens (EMU)

Panel 1
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Career Fair
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Panel 2
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Panel 3
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Panel 4
12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Panel 5
1:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies + Svitlana Kravchenko
Environmental Rights Award
6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Keynote 1
Mary Wood
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

PIELC 2023 Party
- Falling Sky Delicatessen -
790 Blair Blvd, Eugene, OR, 97402

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. -- Registration Opens (LAW)

Workshop 1
8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Workshop 2
12:00 p.m.-3 p.m.

Panel 1
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Workshop 1
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Panel 2
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Workshop 2
3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Panel 3
12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Panel 5
3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Panel 4
1:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

Panel 6
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Keynote 2
Abigail Dillen
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award
3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Closing Ceremonies
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AWARD
**SATURDAY**

8:00 a.m. -- Registration Opens (LAW & EMU)

**Panel 6**
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

**Workshop 3**
8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

**Panel 7**
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

**Kerry Rydberg-Jack Tuholske Award for Excellence in Public Interest Environmental Lawyering**
12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Keynote 3**
Juan Carlos Bravo
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Panel 8**
3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Panel 9**
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Workshop 4**
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

**UO ENR Alumni Reception**
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY**

8:00 a.m. -- Registration Opens (LAW & EMU)

**Panel 10**
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

**Workshop 5**
8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

**Panel 11**
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

**Keynote 4**
Cristina Eisenberg
12:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

- Closing Ceremonies -
2:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.
PIELC 2023 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

SATURDAY’S FILM FEST WILL FEATURE 3 FILMS, ALL SHOWN IN EMU 214 (REDWOOD).

9:00 A.M.-10:25 A.M.: THE ONCE BRAIDED RIVER

“Once a Braided River” tells the story of the North Reach of the Willamette River near its confluence with the Columbia. It portrays what was once a braided river of shallow channels and islands rich in biodiversity, now one of the largest and complex Superfund Sites in the country. Over 150 years of industrial development has filled its wetlands, dredged its channels, and hardened its banks. Industries contaminated the water and land along the river, destroying salmon runs and reducing wildlife populations that had thrived alongside indigenous communities since time immemorial. The documentary features community groups and activists working to reclaim this stretch of river as a place where people and wildlife who depend upon the river for their homes, jobs and migration routes can thrive again.

Film: 53 minutes. 30 minute panel following.

10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.: THE LOST SALMON

In The Lost Salmon, filmmaker Shane Anderson set out on a two-year journey across Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho to document some of the last wild “springers”, the historical and ongoing causes of their declining numbers, and their profound relationship to the people and places of the Pacific Northwest. Along the way, Anderson tells the story of a recent scientific breakthrough that provides crucial new insights into salmon genetics and offers an important path forward to help save the king of salmon before they are lost forever.

Film: 60 minutes. 30 minute panel following.

3:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.: ELEMENTAL

Elemental takes viewers on a journey with the top experts in the nation to better understand fire. We follow the harrowing escape from Paradise as the town ignited from wind-driven embers and burned within a few hours of the fire’s start. We visit fire labs where researchers torch entire houses to learn why some homes burn and others survive. We learn from Native Americans as they employ fire to benefit nature and increase community safety as they have for thousands of years. We follow researchers who work to understand the effects of climate on forests and the crucial role that natural forests play in storing vast amounts of carbon. Along the way we listen to people who have survived the deadliest fires to underscore the importance of this quest.

Film: 84 minutes. 30 minute panel following.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

SUNDAY’S FILM FEST WILL FEATURE 7 FILMS, ALL SHOWN IN LAW 110.

11:00 A.M.-11:25 A.M.: DANGEROUS NEIGHBOR: FROM COAL TO COMMUNITY TRANSITION

Dangerous Neighbor chronicles the powerful story of community activists in Peoria, Illinois, and how their decade-long struggle influenced a historic legal victory to retire one of the state’s worst coal plants while allocating millions of dollars back to the impacted community.

Film: 22 minutes.

11:30 A.M.-11:40 A.M.: REMOTHERING THE LAND

Regenerative practices and knowledge come from Indigenous and Black farmers, and support healthy soil, animals and people. We asked William Smith, land steward of the Village of Huichin, and Nazshonnii Brown-Almaweri, land team member of the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, to share their thoughts on bringing this growing movement back to a centuries-old sustainable agricultural system. A system that has the power to connect communities with the land in a way that is healing and rejuvenating for both people and the planet.

Film: 10 minutes.

11:40 A.M.-12:00 P.M.: TEXAS OIL FIELDS ON FIRE

In West Texas, an oil boom is creating a major problem for producers and locals alike: wasting natural gas by burning or flaring it, which sends billions of cubic feet of CO2 into the atmosphere. Not only does the flaring cost the industry money, but the release of gases damages the climate and could be toxic to those living near the fracking rigs dotting Texas oil fields.

Film: 10 minutes.
PIELC 2023 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

SUNDAY’S FILM FEST WILL FEATURE 7 FILMS, ALL SHOWN IN LAW 110.

11:50 A.M.-12:00 P.M.: WHAT IS CLIMATE JUSTICE?

There’s no climate justice without social justice. Rich countries are mainly responsible for climate change, yet climate change is disproportionately affecting the world’s poorest. Meanwhile, #BlackLivesMatter has forced the climate movement to reckon with racism and racial inequality. In this video, we unpack the roots of global inequality and explain why climate justice and environmental justice matter – and how you can be a part of the change.

Film: 10 minutes.

12:00 P.M.-12:10 P.M.: WHY THE WORLD IS RUNNING OUT OF SAND

Even though sand can be found in nearly every single country on Earth, the world could soon face a shortage of this crucial, under-appreciated commodity. Sand use around the world has tripled in the last twenty years, according to the UNEP. That’s far greater than the rate at which sand is being replenished. Here’s what’s behind the looming sand crisis.

Film: 10 minutes.

12:10 P.M.-12:20 P.M.: GAMECHANGERS: THE FOOTBALL TEAM SCORING CONSERVATION GOALS

Gamechangers is the story of the Ghanaian football team who committed to saving sea turtles in Ghana. The first step is to address the issues in their own community in Gomoa Fetteh - a coastal town in the Central Region of Ghana. But accomplishing this task is far from easy.

Film: 10 minutes.
THURSDAY KEYNOTE: MARY WOOD

Mary Christina Wood is the Philip H. Knight Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the school’s Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center. She teaches property law, natural resources law, public trust law, and federal Indian law; she has also taught public lands law, wildlife law, and hazardous waste law.

She is the Founding Director of the school’s nationally acclaimed Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center and is Faculty Leader of the Program’s Conservation Trust Project, Global Environmental Democracy Project, Native Environmental Sovereignty Project, and Food Resilience Project.

After graduating from Stanford Law School in 1987, she served as a judicial clerk on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She then practiced in the environmental/natural resources department of Perkins Coie, a Pacific Northwest law firm. In 1994 she received the University’s Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching, and in 2002 she received the Orlando Hollis Faculty Teaching Award. Professor Wood is a co-author of a leading textbook on natural resources law (West, 2006), and a co-author of a textbook on public trust law (Carolina Press, 2013). Her new book, Nature’s Trust, was released in October, 2013 (by Cambridge University Press).

Professor Wood has published extensively on climate crisis, natural resources, and native law issues. She originated the approach called Atmospheric Trust Litigation to hold governments worldwide accountable for reducing carbon pollution within their jurisdictions, and her research is being used in cases and petitions brought on behalf of children and youth throughout the United States and in other countries. She is a frequent speaker on global warming issues and has received national and international attention for her sovereign trust approach to global climate policy.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE: ABIGAIL DILLEN

Abigail Dillen is the President of Earthjustice, leading the organization’s staff, board and supporters to advance our mission of using the courts to protect our environment and people’s health. She is based at headquarters in San Francisco, California.

Before stepping into her current role, Abigail served as the Vice President of Litigation for Climate & Energy, heading the organization’s litigation and legal advocacy to achieve the essential shift from fossil fuels to 100% clean energy.

Prior to that, Abbie was managing attorney of Earthjustice’s Coal Program, which has played a central role in forcing the overdue retirement of coal-fired power plants around the country.

Abbie has litigated precedent-setting cases that have held polluters accountable and cleared the way for clean energy nationally. These wins include: requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate first-ever standards to govern disposal of coal ash and limit the wastewater discharge of toxic pollutants from coal-fired power plants; blocking a $2 billion transmission project to transport dirty coal energy from the Ohio Valley to East Coast cities; blocking permits for new coal-fired power plants; and cutting off federal funding of new coal plants.

Abigail came to Earthjustice in 2000. Working first out of our Northern Rockies Office in Bozeman, Montana, she worked to protect public lands and the many imperiled species that depend on them, including wolves, grizzly bears, and native trout.

Abigail received her B.A. from Yale University and her law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where she graduated Order of the Coif.
Juan Carlos Bravo was born in Mexico City in 1976. He grew up enjoying the wooded landscapes of central Mexico and also witnessing their gradual depletion, an experience that would influence him deeply. While his physicist mother fostered and encouraged a love and understanding of all sciences, he followed his creative inclinations and studied Graphic Communications at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He began his career in conservation in 1999 working as a designer, illustrator and graphic editor of Especies a conservation magazine published by the Mexican non-profit Naturalia.

It was here that he found his calling in wildlife conservation and gradually undertook more management and coordinating roles, eventually serving eight years as Regional Representative for Northwestern Mexico and one year as Interim General Director. His work included supervising the creation, expansion and management of the Northern Jaguar Reserve in the state of Sonora, a 55,000-acre private sanctuary for the northernmost population of jaguars. He also comanaged Los Fresnos, a private reserve, with 9,400 acres of native grasslands in the binational San Pedro River Basin, home to a recovering population of beavers.

He spearheaded prairie dog conservation, collaborated in the first Mexican wolf reintroduction in Mexico, and led restoration and environmental education initiatives. In 2014 he joined Wildlands Network to establish its Mexico Program, and as director of this program he led a campaign that culminated in the securing legal certainty for the politically threatened Bavispe Natural Protected Area, ensuring that almost 500,000 acres in the Sky Islands region will remain devoted to conservation. In 2017 he negotiated the protection of the best-preserved stretch of the Cocóspera river, when threatened by a road development that failed to account for the area’s unique biodiversity.

Starting in 2019, Juan Carlos began growing the Mexico team for Wildlands Network, bringing together staffers with diverse backgrounds in conservation, policy and ecology. Juan Carlos led the Mexico team in establishing its current projects, which address priority mitigation concerns for target highways of Sonora, foster the certification of new Voluntary Conservation Areas, collaborate with federal agencies in the establishment of new federal protected areas, and advance policies to improve funding and stewardship of existing federal parks. He also led the first multi-group effort to jointly assess jaguar and ocelot presence in multiple sites across Sonora under the same field methodology and conducted the most comprehensive inventory of conservation lands of Sonora.

In his new role as Conservation Programs Director, Juan Carlos is tasked with integrating all of Wildlands Network’s projects across North America into a vision of continental connectivity that transcends borders, languages and cultures.

He is a recipient of the Wilburforce Conservation Leadership Award and a board member of Sky Island Alliance. In his free time Juan Carlos likes to read and travel with his wife, daughter and dog.

Juan Carlos’s keynote speech will present a bold vision for continental-scale conservation based on linking together tangible local and regional efforts, integrating human diversity into conservation efforts, and acknowledging that movement and migration are inherent needs of both wildlife and people.

Dr. Cristina Eisenberg is the Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence and Director of Tribal Initiatives at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University. Her keynote will focus on finding common ground in Indigenous knowledge and natural resource conservation and management.

Dr. Eisenberg's research areas include the science of conservation, restoration, and sustainable management, silviculture, fire, forest health, forest policy analysis and economics,

Dr. Eisenberg is Latinx and Native American, of mixed Raramuri and Western Apache heritage, and was a first generation student. As a community ecologist, she focuses on synergistic solutions to challenging natural resource problems by braiding together and catalyzing the empirical strengths and logic of Scientific Knowledge and the insights and wisdom of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to gain binocular vision, called Two-Eyed Seeing. She is interested in creating, facilitating, and supporting intercultural collaborative partnerships between Indigenous peoples, Universities such as OSU, Federal agencies, and conservation non-profits that begin by identifying mutual research interests (e.g., a knowledge gap or need), the tools required, and then co-creating research that honors Tribal sovereignty. This results in shared recognition of the value of the research and co-benefits, can build long-term relationships between all involved, and through ecocultural restoration, help create ecosystems more resilient to climate change and related environmental stressors, such as severe wildfires.
THE SVITLANA KRAVCHENKO ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AWARD

The Svitlana Kravchenko Environmental Rights Award to a person who exemplifies the ideals and work of Professor Kravchenko, who left this Earth in 2012, her work enormously successful, but unfinished.

The award winner is chosen from those who carry on in Svitlana's spirit: having exquisite qualities of both head and heart; mixing academic rigor with spirited activism; and speaking truth to power, while exhibiting kindness toward all. Also in that spirit, the award winner inspires young adults to reach for the stars, while keeping their feet firmly planted in the Earth they want to protect, as Svitlana did. The award goes to a person who makes broad impacts in the law, while working to support local communities. The award winner insists that environmental rights and human rights are indivisible, as did Svitlana Kravchenko, a daughter of Ukraine who became a citizen of America and the entire world.

The award winner is selected by the Co-Directors of Land Air Water after nomination by and consultation with the staff of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), and Professor John Bonine, the professional partner and husband of Professor Kravchenko.

DAVID BROWER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to activists and attorneys who exemplify David Brower’s spirit and accomplishments. The students of Land, Air, Water - the nation’s oldest and largest environmental law society - established the David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997. The honor is presented annually during the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) in Eugene, Oregon. David Brower was perhaps the most important environmentalist of the second half of the 20th century. He was Executive Director of the Sierra Club and took it from a group of friends hiking on the trails of California to an activist organization making a difference all over the country and beyond. His famous full-page advertisement to oppose the building of a dam near the foot of the Grand Canyon asked, “Should we also flood the Sistine Chapel so that the tourists could get nearer the ceiling?” The Sierra Club lost its tax exemption for that, which was a good thing, for freed from the burden of staying out of politics it moved out with courage into broader policy and political battles.

Sierra Club membership skyrocketed under his leadership. Eventually, a combination of the old guard and members concerned about financial soundness got him fired. He reacted by founding Friends of the Earth, which of course has become a worldwide force for good. When he later lost a fight against the move of FOE’s headquarters from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., he resigned and formed Earth Island Institute, origin of many more initiatives.

David became the “grandfather” of the PIELC for many years, and always said that it was the most important conference anywhere. For this reason Land, Air, Water grants an annual David Brower award to an important activist exemplifying his spirit and accomplishments.

KERRY RYDBERG-JACK TUHOLSKES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERING

The Kerry Rydberg-Jack Tuholske Award is presented each year to a lawyer who exemplifies the best in public interest environmental advocacy. Kerry had just graduated from law school in 1987 and immediately started representing grass-roots groups for little to no pay, challenging practices such as destructive old-growth logging and hunting cougars with radio-collared dogs. Tragically, he died in a car accident just two years later, cutting short what surely would have been a rich legacy protecting the wild things and places we all cherish. Likewise, Jack Tuholske worked tirelessly from his home in Montana to protect the wild lands and their inhabitants that he loved for decades, passing away in 2020, when he was added to this award. The Rydberg-Tuholske award, now in its 34th year (2023), is presented to a person who exemplifies Kerry & Jack’s independent public-interest spirit and work. Each year the award winner is chosen by past recipients and John Bonine, who co-founded the award along with Mike Axline.
THURSDAY, MARCH 2
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. • PANEL 1

Student-Led Activism & Environmental Justice Organizing (EMU 119)
This panel will feature UO students who are involved in various avenues of organizing for environmental justice. Students from the UO Student Advocacy and Action for Environmental Justice (SAAEJ), Climate Justice League (CJL), Fossil Free UO, and other on-campus groups will discuss how students can work towards enacting policy change, engage in campus and community activism, and how law students can collaborate with other groups on their campuses. Panelists: Roses Laughlin, UO SAAEJ; Katie Moreland, UO SAAEJ; Molly Hooks, UO SAAEJ; Abbey Gravatt, UO Student Sustainability Center; Charity Martinez, Land Air Water; Max Arquilevich, UO Citizens’ Climate Lobby

*The Fight Against False Fossil “Solutions” (EMU 145)
A discussion about risks and concerns related to oil and gas industry plans to expand Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) and hydrogen, particularly as a growing number of local governments are taking action to regulate methane gas and require electrification in buildings. Panelists: Carra Sahler, GEI; Dylan Plummer, Sierra Club; Teryn Yazdani, Beyond Toxics; Nihal Shrinath, Sierra Club

Unlocking Access to Public Lands (EMU 231)
This panel will cover innovative work being done to ensure the public can access public lands. A representative from the PLWA (Public Land Water Access Association) will outline their work to train members of the public on how to spot and report illegal gates and barriers to public lands. A representative from the Backcountry Hunters Association will discuss the issues their members are facing and the value and effectiveness of voluntary arrangements in which landowners assent to outdoor adventurers entering their land. Kevin Frazier will detail the forthcoming paper in the Public Land & Resources Law Review on corner crossing. Austin Smith Jr., the General Manager of the Branch of Natural Resources for The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon will join to provide his perspective on Tribal member access to public lands for hunting and fishing purposes under the Tribe’s 1855 Treaty. Panelists: Kevin Frazier, State of Montana; Drewry Hanes, Public Land Water Access Association; John B. Sullivan, Backcountry Hunters Association; Haley Sir, Public Land Water Access Association; Elijah Brown, Backcountry Hunters Associations; Austin Smith, Jr., Branch of Natural Resources for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

*Marine Plastic Pollution: from Patchwork Solutions to Policy Reform (EMU 232)
In order to support the growing international movement to address plastic pollution, this panel provides (1) an overview of government obligations to address the problem, (2) an example of the variety of policy responses available, and (3) a host of tools available to advocates and legal practitioners working in this space, both locally and internationally. Panel participants will gain a toolkit of valuable substantive and practical knowledge about the consequences of marine plastic pollution and the solutions available to address them. Panelists: Evan Levy, Berkeley Law; Lainey Meiri, Berkeley Law; Grayson Peters, Berkeley Law; Rachel Wam, Berkeley Law

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 – 6:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.
OPENING CEREMONIES & AWARD
(EMU Ballroom)

Join us in opening PIELC 2023 | Reconnecting and Transitioning Together. The Svitlana Kravchenko Environmental Rights Award will be presented.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. • WORKSHOP 1

*New National Rule to Protect Mature and Old-Growth Forests as a Cornerstone of U.S. Climate Policy (LAW 141)
On Earth Day 2022, President Biden issued Executive Order 14072 - Strengthening the Nation’s Forests, Communities, and Local Economies - which called for protecting mature and old-growth forests. This panel will discuss the science and policy implications of securing permanent protections for mature and old-growth forests nationally via a new federal rule on Forest Service and BLM lands as a cornerstone of U.S. climate policy. Panelists: Garrett Rose, NRDC; Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Earthjustice; Dr. Chris Dunn, Oregon State University; Eddie Sherman, Indigenous knowledge expert; Madeline Cowen, Cascadia Wildlands

*Environmental Justice in Practice (LAW 184)
Environmental justice as a legal practice area is new, but quickly growing. Practicing attorneys will discuss how to meaningfully include environmental justice (EJ) in a firm/organization’s practice. This panel will discuss the realities of EJ legal work, how Organizational leadership can take the lead in creating EJ specific positions, how employees can feel most empowered in their role as EJ focused attorneys, how one can explore how an employer or potential employer actually implements EJ in its work practices, and how EJ clients can utilize a lawyer to effectively advance EJ initiatives. Panelists: Rebeka Dawit, Crag Law Center; Courtney Johnson, Crag Law Center; Teryn Yazdani, Beyond Toxics

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*Current Issues in Nationwide Bird Conservation (LAW 241)
Recent statistics paint a grim picture of the state of avian conservation: more than half of bird species in the United States are in decline, and over three billion birds in North America have disappeared since 1970. In this panel, we will survey current work to address threats to birds across the country. We will spotlight litigation and advocacy to protect specific species—the northern spotted owl, golden-cheeked warbler, red knot, bald and golden eagles, and sage grouse—and describe broader campaigns to safeguard bird habitat in the Pacific Northwest and curb the use of pesticides and lead ammunition. Our panel will also highlight upcoming opportunities for public engagement in these areas.
Panelist: Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice; Steve Holmer, American Bird Conservancy; Edward Hardy Kern, American Bird Conservancy; Sharmeen Morrison, Earthjustice

*Programmatic Agency Action and Halting Offshore Fracking in the Recent Ninth Circuit Decision EDC v. BOEM (LAW 243)
Attorneys from the case will discuss the recent Ninth Circuit decision in EDC v. BOEM, in which the Court found a programmatic decision authorizing fracking in federal waters offshore California to be subject to judicial review and in violation of NEPA, the ESA, and CZMA. A petition for certiorari of the case is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.
Panelist: Kristen Monsell, Center for Biological Diversity

*Protecting Plants under State and Federal Endangered Species Laws (EMU 146)
Plants generally receive less protection than animals under the federal Endangered Species Act. Plant protections under state law vary widely, but several states provide meaningful protection for imperiled plants. Using examples from Hawaii, California, Nevada and elsewhere, the panel will discuss the interplay between state and federal laws, relevant case law, and the opportunities and challenges for improving plant protection.
Panelists: Brendan Cummings, Center for Biological Diversity; Maxx Phillips, CBD; Patrick Donnelly, CBD

Tending the Urban Forest to Grow Equity and Climate Resilience (EMU 104)
Climate change is leading to hotter summer temperatures, the brunt of which falls heaviest on people historically marginalized by urban planning decisions. Urban heat islands often correspond to formerly redlined neighborhoods that still have high BIPOC, refugee and poor populations. We can grow more equitable, climate resilient cities by investing in green infrastructure, especially shade trees. This panel will focus on the science, policy, and practical application of growing both more trees and the more diverse arborcare work force needed to create more livable, equitable cities.
Panelists: Dr. Vivek Shandas, CAPA Strategies; Dr. Derron Coles, The Blueprint Foundation; Micah Meskel, Portland Audubon Society; Natalie Rogers, City of Milwaukee

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. • PANEL 3

*Legal Strategies to Address the Crisis of Orphaned, Neglected, and Zombie Oil and Gas Wells in the U.S. (EMU 104)
The U.S. has been a domestic producer of oil and gas for over 150 years. As a result, much of the country is littered with unproductive oil and gas infrastructure. This causes obstruction of other land uses (including renewable energy production), the emission of large amounts of methane and other air pollutants, soil contamination, and the direct loss of human life. This panel will examine the extent of the problem and propose solutions including litigation, agency rulemaking, legislative proposals, and other means of harnessing American law and public policy.
Panelists: Robert Schuwerk, Carbon Tracker; Megan Miliken Biven, True Transition; Michael Becher, Appalachian Mountain Advocates

Oregon Water Justice (LAW 184)
Sharing community engagement, legal, and policy insights gained through the collaborative project, Oregon Water Futures.
Panelists: Lynny Brown, Willamette Partnership; Isabel Sanchez, Coalition of Communities of Color; Cheyenne Holliday, Verde; Michelle Smith, University of Oregon; Adell Amos, University of Oregon

*Fighting Climate Disinformation: From Carbon Majors, to Industry Front Groups, All the Way to Local Utilities (EMU 146)
Large fossil fuel corporations (the “Carbon Majors”), fossil fuel trade associations and other front groups, and even local utilities have each engaged in long-running campaigns to deceive the public and conceal the harms of their products and activities. This panel will outline the similarities, differences and connections between the tactics used by these different entities, and discuss the legal remedies (i.e. litigation, statutory and administrative) that are currently being pursued, and potentially could be pursued, to redress fossil fuel industry harms.
Panelists: Naomi Spoolman, Center for Climate Integrity; Danny Noonan, Breach Collective; Nick Caleb, Breach Collective

You’ve Got Mail - and Clean Air (LAW 241)
Electrifying the United States Postal Service vehicle fleet is one of the easiest transitions we can make with some of the most benefits, including delivering clean air in every neighborhood in the country. These vehicles make up roughly a third of the federal fleet and constitute the largest civilian fleet in the world. President Biden issued an executive order in December 2021 that committed to acquiring only zero-emission federal vehicles in the coming decades. But in that same month the Postal Service, led by Trump appointee Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, issued a decision to replace its aging fleet with close to 150,000 gas-burning mail trucks built by non-union labor. This panel will cover ongoing advocacy challenging that decision, which pushed the Postal Service to recently announce plans to increase its purchases of electric mail trucks as it transitions to buying nearly all electric trucks in a few years.
Panelists: Candice Youngblood, Skadden Fellow, Earthjustice; Frank Sturges, Beagle Fellow, NRDC; Scott Hochberg, Center for Biological Diversity; Stacy Lau, California DOJ, Environment Section; Elizabeth “Lizzie” Lewis, Eubanks & Associates, PLLC

Severing the Tie Between School Funding and Logging Old-Growth Forests: The Case of the Elliott State Research Forest (LAW 141)
This panel will explore the unique species and habitats of the 82,500-acre Elliott Rainforest in the Oregon Coast Range, the 20-year grassroots and legal effort to stop old-growth logging and sever the tie between school funding and clearcutting, and the formation of the recently established Elliott State...
Research Forest.
Panelists: Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon; Francis Eatherington, Cascadia Wildlands; Josh Laughlin, Cascadia Wildlands

*Climate on Trial in the U.S. (EMU 145)
Establishing a record at trial has long been understood to be a critical function of lower courts in the U.S. This is especially true in the context of important constitutional rights cases. The court serves as both a fact-finder and a truth-teller, illuminating government wrongs and bringing them into public discourse. Yet, today, we see a shift away from trials through obstructionist practices from government attorneys and shadow dockets. This panel will discuss why having a record of rigorously tested evidence before the court is fundamental to the ability of the youth plaintiffs in Held v. Montana and Navahine F. v. Hawai‘i Dept. of Transportation to access justice in this era of no-facts litigation.
Panelists: Andrea Rodgers, Our Children’s Trust; Nate Bellinger, Our Children’s Trust; Youth Plaintiff from Held v. State of Montana; Youth Plaintiff from Navahine F. v. Hawai‘i Dept. of Transportation

International Recognition of Climate Change Refugees (LAW 243)
Climate change is one of the most serious threats for the environment, but even more for the various societies in the World's countries. Global warming will cause drastic changes in the environment of almost all states of this planet and most of these changes needs to be addressed by adaptation. When this is not possible, because the changes are inevitable and adaptation is not possible, or if the finances are not available to support societies in adapting to climate change, migration will increase. This requires a rather quick legal response, because the existing legal framework addressing the issue of migration and refugees is not applicable to climate induced migrants. Beside legal responses to climate change, facts and reasons for migration are presented and discussed on base of the two currently most vulnerable regions to climate change, which are Sub-Sahara Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
Panelists: Dr. Bachar Ibrahim, Brandenburg University of Technology; Dr. Eike Albrecht, Brandenburg University of Technology; Eva Leptien, Universität Hamburg and Brandenburg University of Technology

12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. – WORKSHOP 2

*Wolfsoph 1 (LAW 110) 12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
In this session covering the West Coast, Northern Rockies, and Colorado, panelists will give updates on conservation status, campaign/litigation work, and where do we go from here in each of these regions in efforts to recover, conserve and protect wolves.
Panelists: Bethany Cotton, Cascadia Wildlands; Amaroq Weiss, Center for Biological Diversity; Sristi Kamal, Western Environmental Law Center; Andrea Zaccardi, Center for Biological Diversity; Jessica Blome, Greenfire Law, PC; Christi Huen, Defenders of Wildlife; Delia Malone, Sierra Club; Michael Robinson, Center for Biological Diversity

*Wolfsoph 2 (LAW 110) 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
In this session covering the Western Great Lakes, the Red Wolf, the Northeast, and the Federal Level, panelists will give updates on conservation status, campaign/litigation work, and where do we go from here in each of these regions in efforts to recover, conserve and protect wolves.
Panelists: Amanda Wight, The Humane Society of the United States; Claire Loebbs Davis of Animal & Earth Advocates, PLLC; Ron Sutherland, Wildlands Network; Perri De Jong, Center for Biological Diversity; Renee Seacor, Project Coyote; Amaroq Weiss, Center for Biological Diversity; Sophia Ressler, Center for Biological Diversity; Kelly Nokes, Western Environmental Law Center

12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. – PANEL 4

*Digital Security for Lawyers & Clients (LAW 142)
Navigating risks to confidentiality and understanding what client information may be available to the state is a constantly moving target. In the first hour, you will learn about where your information is, how it can be accessed by adversaries to lawyers and clients alike, and how that information can be used against you. After will be an interactive workshop to understand your particular and develop a plan of action for changing or adopting digital security behaviors to better protect your information.
Panelists: Glencora Borradaile, Oregon State University; Lauren Regan, CLDC

*Collaboration for Connected Landscapes (LAW 175)
California’s dense network of freeways and developments often prevents many of its iconic species, including mountain lions, desert tortoises, and San Joaquin kit foxes, from accessing the resources and connectivity they need to survive. Throughout California, stakeholders in NGOs, Tribes, and agencies are working to establish a network of protected habitats and lower barriers to wildlife movement. This panel will highlight ongoing efforts to develop a wildlife crossing database, conduct research on wildlife movement, conserve and acquire lands to enhance connectivity, and enact and implement the Safe Roads & Wildlife Protection Act (2022) as well as wildlife connectivity ordinances in local land use planning.
Panelists: Mari Galloway, Wildlands Network; Ahiga Sandoval, Pathways for Wildlife; JP Rose, Center for Biological Diversity; Dan Medeiros, The Conservation Fund

Hydrogen’s Role in the Clean Energy Transition in Oregon (LAW 184)
As the global search intensifies for solutions to climate change and a sustainable transition away from fossil fuels, clean hydrogen is an energy alternative that is gaining momentum with policymakers in the U.S. and around the world. Join us for an engaging discussion to find out why and learn more about the role hydrogen may have in the clean energy future of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.
Panelists: Rebecca Smith, Oregon Department of Energy; Ashu Mazra ("AR"), University of Oregon; Dr. Shannon Boettcher, University of Oregon

Seeing the Forest through the Trees - Telling the Story to Stop the Destruction (EMU 145)
The existing condition of public forests often varies greatly from the government’s portrayal of them. Industry and top-down governmental appeals to “increase the pace and scale of forest management” by reducing public discourse ignore how truly complex Pacific Northwest forests are, and how relatively little we can appreciate by just sitting behind a computer or looking at a map. For decades, passionate land defenders from all walks of life have used simple, on-the-ground observations to build legal challenges to large, destructive logging propos-

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FRIDAY, MARCH 3 - SATURDAY, MARCH 4

1:15 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. • PANEL 5

*Factory Farming Under the Microscope: False Solutions and Vexing Problems (LAW 243)
This panel will explore how so-called biogas, or gas from animal manure, is not a solution to the climate crisis and perpetuates environmental injustices in communities already bearing a disproportionate burden of pollution and sickness caused by the animal agriculture industry’s outdated practices. Panelists will provide a brief technical overview of factory farm gas, discuss the regulatory environment propelling up the animal agriculture industry, and illustrate how factory farm gas is affecting communities.
Panelists: Blakely Hildebrand, Southern Environmental Law Center; Lori Ann Burd, Center for Biological Diversity; Hannah Connor, Center for Biological Diversity; Stephanie Feldstein, Center for Biological Diversity; Tyler Lobdell, Food & Water Watch and Food & Water Action

Protecting our Vital Watersheds - Transitioning to Rights of Nature as a New Paradigm for Environmental Protection (LAW 241)
Giving entities in nature such as rivers and watersheds legal rights is increasingly being advanced throughout the world. Join us in exploring Indigenous perspectives on watersheds, the importance of recognizing their ecological complexities, and the importance of protecting them with the Rights of Nature Law. The proposed Protect Lane County Watershed Initiative is a local example of this happening right now.
Panelists: Michelle Holman, Community Volunteer; Kunu Bearchum, Filmmaker & Multimedia Producer; Craig Kaufman, University of Oregon; Conrad Gowell, Wild Fish Conservancy; Rob Dickinson, Community Volunteer

*Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Recent Mining Law Wins and the Future (LAW 141)
Join us for a deep dive into case studies from an action-packed year of federal mining law litigation! This panel will cover a range of cases, including ones that defended wilderness forests and trout streams in Montana, intact jaguar habitat and groundwater that feeds endangered species’ homes in Arizona, endangered plants and their habitat in Nevada, and cases seeking to protect the Boundary Waters and Lake Superior watersheds in Minnesota. This panel will also explore proactive efforts to reform the arcane 1872 mining law to better protect land, water, wildlife, and communities.
Panelists: Elizabeth Forsyth, Earthjustice; Marc Fink, Center for Biological Diversity; Alli Henderson, Center for Biological Diversity

3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. • AWARD & KEYNOTE ADDRESS (LAW 175)

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

3:00 P.M. DAVID BROWER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
3:30 P.M. ABIGAIL DILLEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. • WORKSHOP 3

Wall Street Forests & the Climate Emergency: Revolution or Reform? (LAW 110)
The two hour workshop will explore the role of Wall Street finance in Oregon’s private forests and how financial management harms the environment, people, communities and rural economies. The workshop will focus on the rise of investor owned timber corporations locked into ecologically destructive forest management, forest carbon loss and polluted watersheds. We’ll discuss the plight of rural communities who receive little of the wealth flowing from surrounding forest lands. Also discussed will be alternative models of land management and anti-capitalist land ownership, and the outline of a progressive politics linking rural and urban people in a common struggle against invasive capital. All the while, an unrelenting climate crisis challenges financial forest management. The question before us is - reform or revolution?
Facilitators: Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association; Brenna Bell, 350 PDX; Matt Stevenson, Sunrise Movement PDX; Michael Gaskill, Coast Range Association

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

*Colonial Law, Decolonized Science, and Indigenous Science, Technology and the Law (Many Nations Longhouse)
This panel provides a glimpse of Indigenous Ecological Knowing and Practice/Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) systems of the Americas that are much older than western science and the colonial legal systems. During this panel, Indigenous and Native speakers will introduce aspects of TEK systems and Indigenous legal practices and the solutions they offer to the multiplying environmental crisis. These practices and solutions are essential because, although environmental statutes in the U.S., such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act have slowed some of the damage wrought by extractive capitalism, they are insufficient to address the climate crisis, the extinction crisis and the environmental health crisis. These statutes, because they are embedded in the colonial legal structure, are currently unable to address the fundamental rupture between humans and the environment caused by colonialism and extractive capitalism. They tend to rely exclusively on western science and, instead of incorporating TEK, present barriers to the solutions of Indigenous experts.
Panelists: Amelia Marchand, L.I.G.H.T. Foundation; Donna (Taliman) House; Faith Spotted Eagle, Brave Heart Society; Roberto Nultouis, Nihkeya; Jennifer Calkins, J.D. Calkins Law and Consulting, PLLC

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. • PANEL 6

*Carbon Capture & Storage -- A False Climate Solution that Harms Communities and the Environment (LAW 141)
This panel will provide an overview of CCS, including the federal regulatory landscape for project approvals, funding, and
pipelines. We'll go in-depth on several case studies of projects communities are fighting (and have won!) around the country, including in California and Louisiana.

Panelists: Victoria Bogdan Tejeda, Center for Biological Diversity; Ka’sha Bernard, CIEL; Adam Carlesco, Food & Water Watch; Erin Dorin, Food & Water Watch

*Will Science or Politics Govern the Future of the Mexican Gray Wolf? (LAW 142)
The Mexican gray wolf is the rarest, most genetically distinct and most imperiled subspecies of gray wolf in North America. The U.S. government actively exterminated the Mexican gray wolf in the U.S. and Mexico from 1915 to 1972. This panel will discuss the historic and current persecution of the Mexican wolf, the ongoing legal battles to secure the species’ long term recovery, and a successful use of FOIA to expose fraudulent wolf depredation reports and spur government reform.

Panelists: Michael Robinson, Center for Biological Diversity; Elizabeth Forsyth, Earthjustice; Cyndi Tuell, Western Watersheds Project

*The Injustice of 1.5°C (LAW 175)
This panel addresses how the global community came to coalesce around the Paris Agreement temperature targets of 1.5°C and 2°C of global heating. It will then ask a controversial question: should a political target obtained through international agreement be used by climate advocates and judicial bodies as a proxy legal standard for fundamental rights protection when the science says otherwise? The answer is tantamount for the protection of human rights and is especially critical for the protection of the rights of future generations.

Panelists: Kelly Matheson, Our Children's Trust; Anders Carlson, Our Children's Trust; Nathan B.; Jennifer Marlow; Lauren Sancken

Get the Cluck Out - Fighting Foster Farms in the Santiam Basin (LAW 184)
Big Chicken is attempting to develop industrial poultry factories in the pristine Santiam and Willamette River Basins. Come hear from the local farmers who are pushing back to protect pristine waters, river ecosystems, and Oregon’s rural farming way of life.

Panelists: Teresa Mitchell, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project; Christina Eastman, Farmers Against Foster Farms; Elisabeth Holmes, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project

*Next Steps in the Fight Against Offshore Oil and Gas Development (LAW 241)
Offshore oil and gas development threatens ocean wildlife, fisheries, and communities on the frontlines of fossil fuel production. Ending offshore oil and gas development is essential to preserve ocean ecosystem health, curb climate change, and relieve the health burdens of frontline communities. Hear from advocates about the next steps in the fight. Panelists will provide a brief overview of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and discuss various cases challenging lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, efforts to fight the next five-year offshore oil and gas leasing plan, and how the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act affects these efforts. Panelists will also discuss efforts to fight particularly harmful offshore drilling practices, like offshore fracking, and efforts to end oil production off California.

Panelists: Kristen Monsell, Center for Biological Diversity; Christopher Eaton, Earthjustice; Irene Gutierrez, NRDC

*Using Land Use to Protect the Environment: Stories from LUBA (LAW 243)
Oregon (and maybe Washington) land use practitioners discuss recent and current land use cases that impact open space, habitat, farm/forestland, and equity issues.

Panelist: Rory Isbell, Central Oregon Landwatch; Andrew Mulkey, 1000 Friends of Oregon; Meriel Darzen, Crag Law Center; Maura Fahey, Crag Law Center

Assisted Migration in a Rapidly Changing World (LAW 281)
Climate change is rapidly changing species’ habitats, outpacing their capacity to adapt. Assisted migration is one policy prescription that might help some species survive climate change, but it is fraught with challenges. Wildlife management experts discuss existing regulatory frameworks and identify obstacles and opportunities for improvement.

Panelists: Jacyln Lopez, Stetson University College of Law; Patrick Donnelly, Center for Biological Diversity; Elise Bennett, Center for Biological Diversity; Alex Camacho, UCI Law

Protecting Indigenous Lands in Brazil (LAW 282)
ELAW partners - Indigenous lawyers from Brazil - will talk about legal strategies to protect Indigenous lands in the Amazon and across the region.

Panelists: Leticia Soares Aleixo, ELAW; Paulo de Celso Oliviera, Pankararu; Eliesio Marubo, Marubo; Maria Judite da Silva Balle-rio, Guajajara

*Stormwater Enforcement 2022 (EMU 104)
This panel will discuss citizen enforcement of industrial, construction, and municipal stormwater using the Clean Water Act.

Panelists: Erica Maharg, ATA; Daniel Cooper, Sycamore Law; Jesse Swanhuyser, Sycamore Law; Alyssa Koepfgen

*Extracting Sovereignty: Critical Minerals, Mining Law, the Clean Energy Transition, and the Impact on Tribes (EMU 119)
Tribes and tribal communities have for years borne the brunt of public lands mining, with inadequate consultation and influence over the decision-making process and the final outcome. As a result, mining operations have harmed lands and waters that have long been central to tribal traditions, history, and religious life. The Biden administration has embarked on a process to “secure the clean energy supply chain” but unless done appropriately, that risks further harming communities. This panel will explore the impact of current mining law, regulations and projects on tribes and tribal communities and will explore solutions to new mineral demands.

Panelists: Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Earthjustice; Alli Henderson, Center for Biological Diversity; Martina Dawley

*The Ocean Took My House: Sea Level Rise, Property Rights, and Governance in the Southeast (EMU 145)
The Southeast Atlantic coast boasts some of the most prized white-sand beaches and coastal ecosystems in the country. They’re also some of the most vulnerable to sea level rise. This was dramatically illustrated in the spring of 2022, when several houses in a rapidly-eroding section of North Carolina’s Outer Banks collapsed into the ocean—one of which became a viral internet sensation. Up and down the coast, houses are increasingly at risk of becoming “beached” on the active shore, creating environmental and public health hazards. At the same time, property rights activists are challenging the authority of local governments to order the removal of these nuisance structures. This panel will explore

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relevant cases across multiple states and discuss implications for prioritizing the protection of public trust coastal resources.
Panelists: Sierra Weaver, Southern Environmental Law Center; Elizabeth Rasheed, Southern Environmental Law Center; Amy Armstrong, South Carolina Environmental Law Project

*The Endangered Species Act at 50 Years: Defending What It’s Achieved, Strengthening for the Future (EMU 146)
2023 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This panel will assess and review the law’s achievements in preventing extinction and recovering listed threatened and endangered species, put its achievements in context of the existing extinction crisis, and present on the threats to the law. The panel will examine the efforts by the previous administration to weaken the law and the failure of the Biden administration to quickly return to the pre-Trump regulations, as well as its failures to develop bolder policies to better conserve endangered species. Finally, the panel will discuss the role of NGOs in politically supporting the ESA and where efforts should be focused to make the law even more effective and powerful.
Panelists: Tierra Curry, Center for Biological Diversity; Kieran Suckling, Center for Biological Diversity; Dan Rohlf, Lewis and Clark Law School; Brett Hartl, Center for Biological Diversity

*20 Years of Public Citizen (EMU 231)
The Supreme Court in the Department of Transportation v. Public Citizen (2004) appeared to narrow the classes of “indirect effects” an agency is required to analyze under the National Environmental Policy Act. This panel will discuss how circuit courts have interpreted Public Citizen, whether there is now a circuit split, and practice pointers from attorneys litigating these issues.
Panelists: Jaclyn Lopez, Stetson University; Evan Mulholland, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy; Shiloh Hernandez, Earthjustice

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. • PANEL 7

Next Gen Fire Management (LAW 110)
This panel will discuss several current initiatives in fire-related policies, activism, culture, and education that affect younger generations’ future to survive and thrive with wildfire in a warming world.
Panelists: Timothy Ingalsbee, FUSEE; Kyle Trefny, FireGeneration Collaborative; Joe Scott, Indigenous fire practitioner; Mike Beasley, FUSEE; Jesse Kidd, Willamette Valley Fire Collaborative

*A Citizens’ Lawsuit “That Can Save the World” (LAW 141)
The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires EPA to take action — even to the point of prohibition — against chemical substances that present an “unreasonable risk to health or the environment.” Last June, five renowned climate experts and two public interest organizations petitioned EPA under §21 of TSCA (Citizens’ Petition Section) to commence rulemaking aimed at phasing out continuing and legacy GHG emissions. Despite acknowledging (but not “determining”) “that the climate crisis is an undeniable and urgent threat to human health and the environment,” EPA denied the petition as unnecessary. Indeed, the Agency claimed that it was doing enough already to meet the President’s climate goals, including by its administration of the recently-passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). However, in Petitioners’ view, the IRA was virtually all carrots and no sticks — it neither compels the closure nor the reduction in use, for instance, of any fossil fuel power plant. Much, much more needs to be done. Accordingly, in November, Petitioners filed CPR Initiative et al v EPA et al with the federal district court of Oregon (Eugene branch) to compel EPA to commence a rulemaking aimed at phasing out GHG emissions from fossil fuels within reach of US law, and compel the carbon majors to pay their fair share to remove legacy emissions. Panelists will discuss the case in further detail, including the ‘polluters must pay’ principle, and potential legal objections. Lawyers, law students and activists interested to assist the case are especially encouraged to attend.
Panelists: Dan Galpern, Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative; Donn Viviani, EPA Scientist (Retired) and President of the Board - CPR Initiative

Wildfire and Prison Labor: Questions of Social and Climate Justice (EMU 232)
Across the Western U.S., thousands of prisoners serve as wildland firefighters, volunteering for negligible pay in one of the most dangerous occupations in the country. This panel brings together scholars and activists to illuminate the essential roles played by incarcerated workers doing manual firefighting labor and to advance a conversation about climate justice for prisoners. Panelists will offer perspectives from Oregon, California, and Colorado, demonstrating how rethinking the future of fire suppression and forest management under climate change also requires challenging and changing conditions of work and incarceration.
Panelists: Abby Cunniff, UC Santa Cruz; Adam Gregg, Oregon Justice Resource Center; Ben Nevis Barron, University of Colorado; Boulder; Leigh Johnson, University of Oregon

*SLAPPing Back in Utah (LAW 142)
This panel discusses the current three million dollar SLAPP suit filed by developers against Ben Abbott, a scientist who publicly challenged claims made by developers of a massive artificial island project on Utah Lake in Utah. Abbott filed a countersuit claiming that “Professor Abbott is a vocal critic of LRS [the developer] and its notorious proposal to dredge, develop, and potentially destroy Utah Lake,” reads the motion. “The success of LRS’s proposal—and especially the success of LRS’s efforts to obtain the necessary governmental approvals and permitting—is threatened by Professor Abbott’s public critiques, and it is attempting to weaponize the judicial system to silence him.”
Panelists: Ben Abbott, Brigham Young University; Lauren Regan, CLDC; Whitney Krogue, Ray Quinney & Nebeker; Brigham Daniels, University of Utah College of Law; Lance Long, Stetson University College of Law

*Land Use and Environmental Justice: Leveraging City Zoning to Protect Public Health (LAW 175)
In this panel, Beyond Toxics is excited to discuss how local land use laws can be strong tools to promote equity. Beyond Toxics is currently working with Eugene City Councilors to pass a Public Health Overlay Zone (PHOZ). The PHOZ is an innovative new land use policy that would add an additional layer of public health protection to Eugene’s City Code. It is one of many municipal policy initiatives Beyond Toxics hopes will reduce pollution in West Eugene—an area of the city where housing and industrial facilities are in close proximity. Because of this, the people of West Eugene have endured decades of increased health risks, public health crises, and environmental injustices. The panel will detail the specific policy changes being made at the city level and the process involved in passing policies that focus on the role of nonprofits in
local environmental justice.
Panelists: Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault, Beyond Toxics; Zach Mul-holland, Beyond Toxics; Mason Leavitt, Beyond Toxics

Climate Ethics for Legal Practice (LAW 184)
Law Students for Climate Accountability works to uncover and shift the role of the legal industry in the climate crisis. This requires internal transformation, and prioritizing relational organizing. While there are many attempts to incrementally shift specific practices in the legal profession, often focused on in-office sustainability, the climate crisis demands fundamental changes to firms’ business models. As a result, LSCA is focused on building the people power it takes to create change on the scale we need. We are learning from the labor movement to think of ourselves as workers with power in our workplaces, and to build solidarity with other workers. Our panelists will discuss the intersections of movements, and how we build a culture of trust and collaboration in a profession dominated by individualism and competition. LSCA believes a cultural shift is vital for building a world compatible with human life in the long term.
Panelists: Haley Czarnek, LSCA; Camila Bustos, LSCA; Kelsey Dunn, Stanford Law student; Michaela Anang, UC Davis Law/Geography PhD

*Offshore Wind on East and West Coasts: Comparing Strategies for Siting and Approval Under NEPA (LAW 241)
With increasing pressure to bring renewable energy on-line, the federal government and several state governments are under increasing pressure to move offshore wind projects quickly to meet urgent climate emissions reduction goals. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which approved offshore wind leasing, does not prepare Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) until late in the permitting process, well after siting decisions and lease approvals. This practice can have the effect of significantly narrowing the scope of environmental review, because major decisions affecting the environment have already been made prior to an EIS. Practitioners on the East and West coasts of the U.S. will discuss strategies and results in ensuring adequate environmental review of offshore wind development.
Panelists: Sierra Weaver, Southern Environmental Law Center; Jim Murphy, NWF

*Intersection of Science and Law - Integrating Scientific Experts in Environmental Litigations (LAW 243)
This panel will discuss how to find, work with, and incorporate experts in environmental litigation and the need for integrating the scientific method. Discussion about discovery, expert reports, site inspections, and more.
Panelists: Charlie Tebbutt, Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt, PC; Dave Erickson, Water & Environmental Technologies; Charlene Nishida

*State Implementation Plans & the Clean Air Act: Achieving Air Quality Standards through Effective SIP Development and Enforcement (LAW 242)
This panel will discuss the adoption of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, the process for adopting plans to attain the standards, judicial review of EPA action on attainment plans, and state implementation plan enforcement.
Panelists: Brent Newell, Law Offices of Brent J. Newell; Maya Golden-Krasner, Center for Biological Diversity; Adriano Martinez, Earthjustice

*Private Forest Accord - the Oregon Forest Practices Act Joins the 21st Century (LAW 281)
A brief look at how the Private Forest Accord - the most sweeping change to Oregon’s private forest laws in 50 years - came to be and an in depth analysis of the changes coming for the management of 10 million acres of private forests in Oregon.
Panelists: Sean Stevens, Oregon Wild; Kelly M. Burnett, Watershed and Fisheries Consultant; Stacey Detwiler, Wild Salmon Center; Casey Kulla, Oregon Wild

*Reimagine Public Lands Recreation (LAW 282)
Human-powered recreation – hiking, biking, camping, climbing, etc… – has dramatically increased over the past decade, and skyrocketed during the Covid epidemic, leading to habitat fragmentation, impaired water quality, loss of wilderness values, and destruction of irreplaceable cultural sites, among other things. Yet, no federal land management agency has conducted a comprehensive review of these impacts, much less made plans for how to address them. The question is, how do we both conserve public lands, wildlife, and cultural and natural resources, and provide for a spectrum of high-quality experiences—from backcountry solitude to frontcountry trail systems—for an increasing and increasingly diverse user base? This panel will attempt to answer that question by discussing both the environmental impacts of human-powered recreation, and recommended management strategies to address them.
Panelists: Judi Brawer, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance; Kurt Hellmann, Conservation Northwest; Libby Halpin Nelson, Tulalip Tribes Treaty Rights Office

Rumble on the River - Riled Up Over the CEI Hub & Zenith Energy (EMU 104)
“Rumble On The River” Community Forums inform the public on the CEI (Critical Energy Infrastructure) Hub and Zenith Energy. Zenith is an oil terminal located within the 6-mile stretch of aging tank farms lining the north reach of the Willamette River. In March 2022, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 1567 which requires “owners or operators of bulk oils and liquid fuels terminals to conduct and submit to DEQ seismic vulnerability assessments… by June 1, 2024.” Can this be enough? Community concern over Zenith Energy’s oil transport and storage has engaged community members in petition drives, rallies, civil disobedience, a necessity defense trial, and countless testimonies and phone calls to city government. The panel will provide background and updates on this regional issue.
Panelists: Nick Caleb, Breach Collective; Melanie Plaut, Member (retired) Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility; Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon; Audrey Leonard, Columbia Riverkeeper; Elijah Cetas, Founding Member Braided River Campaign

Equitable and Sustainable Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): Challenges and Opportunities (EMU 119)
The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) constitutes the largest ever U.S. investment in climate action. Passed last year, the landmark legislation contained $369 billion in climate and energy provisions, including nearly $280 billion in clean energy tax incentives, to accelerate the buildout of renewable energy, speed up the adoption of electric vehicles, and expand nationwide conservation. According to multiple analyses, its passage puts the U.S. on a credible path to achieving a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.Unlocking
the full benefits of the IRA, however, depends on successful implementation by state and federal agencies. This panel will help to identify opportunities and challenges associated with the equitable and sustainable implementation of the IRA. It will also explore how states – including Oregon – can maximize the benefits.
Panelists: Jamal Raad, Evergreen Action; Nora Apter, Oregon Environmental Council; Greg Dotson, University of Oregon School of Law

*The Interior Department’s Role in Meeting Climate Goals (EMU 145)
The Interior Department and its agency the Bureau of Land Management have crucial roles to play in meeting the Biden administration’s ambitious climate goals. This panel will discuss durable administrative tools that the Bureau can and should be using to protect our wildest federal public lands.
Panelists: Stephen Bloch, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance; Danielle Murray, Conservation Lands Foundation; Peter “Mac” Lacy, Oregon Natural Desert Association

*Using the ESA to Protect Upper Willamette River Salmon and Steelhead (EMU 146)
This panel will discuss litigation against the Army Corps of Engineers over its management of dams and reservoirs in the Upper Willamette Basin, which significantly harm threatened salmon and steelhead. These fish are an important resource for everyone in the Willamette Valley, including numerous Tribes that have historical fishing grounds along the Willamette River and its tributaries. We will describe the harm posed to the fish by the dams, our substantive ESA victories in court, the injunction measures the Court imposed to reduce harm to the fish, and how this case can help future actions for the Basin.
Panelists: Laurie Rule, Advocates for the West; Lizzy Potter, Advocates for the West; Jennifer Fairbrother, Native Fish Society

*Just Transition Lawyering in Comparative Perspectives (EMU 230)
The panel will engage legal practitioners from the United States, China, India, and Tanzania to share their knowledge, perspectives and observations on the development of legal tools to address climate justice in their jurisdictions and just transition lawyering skills needed for lawyers to contribute to the just transition and capacity building programs that are currently developed to empower lawyers and other legal advocates.
Panelists: Wang Canfa, Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims at China University of Political Science and Law; Amy Laura Cahn, Taproot Earth; Fizza Zaidi, US-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law at Vermont Law School; Fredrick Ole Ikayo, Environmental Justice Clinic at Vermont Law School

*Can the Sage-Grouse Save the West? (EMU 231)
Greater sage-grouse inhabit millions of acres of federal public land across 11 western states, and their sensitivity to extractive land use makes them an “umbrella species” with the potential to safeguard the habitats of over 350 other native species. In 2015, the Obama administration approved West-wide land-use plan amendments to increase habitat protections to a modest degree, and the greater sage-grouse was denied listing under the Endangered Species Act on the basis of these plans. The Trump administration issued plan amendments of its own in 2019, gutting the measurable and enforceable protections applying to BLM lands, and these have been enjoined by the courts. This panel will discuss industry and state lawsuits challenging the inadequacies of the Obama and Trump plans (including a recent preliminary injunction blocking the Trump amendments), and their implications for public lands and wildlife conservation.
Panelists: Erik Molvar, Western Watersheds Project; Sarah Stellberg, Advocates for the West; Mark Salvo, ONDA

12:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. • AWARD & KEYNOTE ADDRESS (LAW 175)

12:30 P.M. KERRY RYDBERG-JACK TUHOLSKE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERING

1:00 P.M. JUAN CARLOS BRAVO

3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. • WORKSHOP 4

*Movement Law: Theory, Strategy, and Defense (LAW 175)
Movement law is a budding niche of legal work that is still being understood and defined. The core components include embedding lawyers and legal workers in the movements they advise, shifting the dynamic of “lawyer knows all” to a collaborative and equal grounded relationship between legal advisor and activist, and using legal professionals as conduits for the most relevant and strategic information in the legal system back to the grassroots people power to better engage in their fights for justice. Movement lawyers, unlike traditional lawyers, do not reinforce the authority and carceralism of the law, but rather seek to alleviate its impacts on the communities that it harms. This workshop features several movement law practitioners - some barred attorneys and some not - who will share their unique journeys in this field and how they each apply movement law principles in the work that they do.
Facilitators: Lauren Regan, CLDC; Carlton Williams, Cornell University; Camila Bustos, University Network for Human Rights; Travis London, organizer

*Public Trust and Waste and Unreasonable Use—In the West—Theory and Practice (EMU Ballroom)
Professors and litigators update use of Public Trust and Waste and Unreasonable Use for resource protection. The workshop will focus on water resources.
Facilitators: Daniel Cooper, Sycamore Law, Inc.; Karrigan Bork, UC Davis

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. • PANEL 8

*Environmental Justice Advocacy: Lessons & Strategies from Community Campaigns for Healthier Ports (LAW 141)
In many communities, cleaning up freight is a priority environmental justice issue. Freight sources like trucks, trains, ships, and cargo equipment emit large amounts of diesel pollution,
which is a known carcinogen and contributes to asthma, cancer, and premature death. These toxic health impacts are disproportionately borne by the low-income and communities of color overburdened by an overconcentration of freight facilities like ports, railyards, highways, and warehouses. Freight infrastructure also can have other adverse impacts, such as blocking communities from coastal access. However, without directly impacted communities at the helm of designing solutions to these problems, advocates run the risk of replicating and re-enforcing the same structures that have led to these injustices and inequities in the first place. Community lawyering is an important way that attorneys with relevant knowledge can respectfully support community-led campaigns and strategies and work with organizers, community-based organizations, and other allies to a healthier and more just future.

Panelists: Michelle Fein, Fein Law PLLC; Natalia Ospina, NRDC; Deeda Seed, Center for Biological Diversity; Lucia Marquez, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

*CAFO Litigation (LAW 110)
This panel will provide law students, advocates, and litigators with an overview of litigation tools and strategies against large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.
Panelists: Dan Snyder, Public Justice; Charlie Tebbutt, Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt, PC; Tarah Heinzen, Food & Water Watch; Emily Miller, Food & Water Watch; Tyler Lobdell, Food & Water Watch

*Say It, Don’t Spray It: Bringing APHIS’s Rangeland Pesticides Program Out Into the Light (EMU 119)
The focus of this panel is the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) rangeland pesticides program, which authorizes and funds the aerial spraying of pesticides across desert rangelands and grasslands in 17 western states. Pesticide use is one of the leading threats to biodiversity and is contributing to the ongoing decline of insect abundance, diversity, and biomass, which in turn negatively affects pollination, food systems for birds and fish, and other important ecosystem functions. While APHIS’s rangeland pesticide program is intended to target grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks, the broad spectrum pesticides used have concerning impacts on native pollinators, other insects, and sage grouse. There is also a troubling lack of transparency with the program: APHIS fails to disclose where pesticides have been applied, but through FOIA, we have learned that they are sometimes applied to popular recreational areas and sensitive wildlife areas, like wildlife refuges. The panel would discuss strategies for reforming APHIS’s rangeland pesticides program, including ongoing litigation brought under the Administrative Procedure Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Plant Protection Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and the Endangered Species Act. The panel would also discuss the scientific concerns with this type of pesticide application and the implications for the ecosystem.
Panelists: Hannah (Clements) Goldblatt, Advocates for the West; Andrew Misset, Advocates for the West; Lori Ann Burd, Center for Biological Diversity; Sharon Selvaggio, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Eastside Forests: Cut and Dry? (LAW 282)
The diverse forests of Eastern Oregon may not be what you think! They provide values of global importance, but are often overlooked and under threat. Scientists, ecologists, and advocates discuss the importance of these wild landscapes, efforts to protect them, and connect the communities that depend upon them.

Panelists: Dr. David Mildrexler, Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands; Dr. Angela Sondenaa, Nez Perce Tribe; Rob Klavins, Oregon Wild; Emily Cain, Greater Hells Canyon Council

*Charlie Brown, Lucy, and the Football of Agency Voluntary Remands Without Vacatur: Developments and Opposition Strategies (EMU 230)
Federal agencies are increasingly requesting voluntary remands of challenged decisions, circumventing judicial review and avoiding ever having to defend the merits of decisions. This tactic seems inherently wrong, much like Lucy pulling the football away from Charlie Brown. Yet, courts routinely grant these extraordinary requests, often under the guise of saving judicial resources and giving agencies a second chance to reconsider. This panel will discuss the doctrine of voluntary remand and its interplay with the standards for the equitable remedy of vacatur. The panelists will explain the history and legal standards, summarize the current state of the caselaw and recent developments, and then delve into an interactive strategy discussion of ways to fight such motions. Voluntary remands are an anachronistic hold-over from a bygone time of administrative law, at odds with the sea-change we are currently witnessing, making now a ripe time to seek needed change.
Panelists: Amy Van Saun, Center for Food Safety; Andrew Hawley, Western Environmental Law Center; Sylvia Wu, Center for Food Safety

*Litigation Strategies: Section 9 “Take” Cases under the Endangered Species Act (EMU 104)
Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) broadly prohibits harming, harassing, or otherwise “taking” endangered species. Although this is one of the most basic and core standards of the ESA, litigation to enforce Section 9 is surprisingly rare. This panel of attorneys will discuss Section 9 cases that they have successfully litigated (in both trial and appeal), cases they are currently litigating, and cases they have leveraged to obtain favorable out-of-court settlements and policy changes. Panelists will offer practical and strategic advice about ESA “take” litigation, and will highlight how such cases can be brought in ways that are both workable and effective.
Panelists: Dan Kruse, Law Offices of Daniel Kruse; Jessica Blome, Greenfire Law, PC; Amy Atwood, Center for Biological Diversity; Eli Holmes, Willamette Riverkeeper

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. • PANEL 9
Diversity of Policy Approaches to Land Conservation in Mexico (EMU 231)
Natural Protected Areas managed by government entities on behalf of the public, can provide a matrix for the sustenance and perpetuation of large-scale processes such as evolution and climate regulation. In Mexico where most land is either communally or privately owned, government-managed reserves constitute a layer of regulation over a mosaic of land tenures, in contrast with countries like the United States where it is vast public lands that constitute the bulk of protected areas. Mexico’s land-tenure regime results in a constant tension between landowner and public interests, which in turn generates challenges and opportunities for the conservation sector to advance land protection policies. The panel will cover different approaches currently pursued to improve existing policies at the federal and state level in order to support both publicly managed protected areas, and voluntary private or

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.communal conservation areas. Panelists will share insights from their many years of experience and will collectively provide attendees with a more nuanced understanding of how land conservation policies can be improved in the near absence of public lands.

Panelists: Juan Carlos Bravo, Wildlands Network; Gina Chacón, Wildlands Network; Sol Pérez Jiménez, Centro de Análisis e Investigación; Carlos Castillo, Wildlands Network

*Sackett v. EPA: What’s at-risk if the U.S. Supreme Court shrinks the jurisdictional reach of the Clean Water Act? (LAW 241)

The Clean Water Act has long safeguarded wetlands, marshes, streams, and tributaries that have a “significant nexus” to a navigable waterway as part of the broader “waters of the United States.” In October 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States heard oral argument in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, a challenge that seeks to overturn the “significant nexus” test for Clean Water Act jurisdiction. The Sackett petitioners propose to first limit the protections of the Clean Water Act only to wetlands or similar aquatic resources that physically abut navigable waters via a continuous, surface water-connection. Even if the Supreme Court rejects the Sacketts’ test, what other limits on the Act’s jurisdictional reach might they impose? This panel will consider the different stakeholder and community interests at-risk in this Supreme Court case and discuss how advocates might continue to defend a right to clean, healthy water regardless of how the Court rules.

Panelists: Cale Jaffe, University of Virginia School of Law; Steph Tai, University of Wisconsin School of Law; Robin Craig, USC Gould School of Law; Janette Brimmer, Earthjustice

*CITES at 50: Combatting Overexploitation of Species from Trade (LAW 281)

This panel will focus on the role that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora plays in combatting the exploitation of species—a key driver of biodiversity loss. The panel will cover the following topics: (1) background information and the history of the Convention; (2) important decisions made over time, and the impact of those decisions on species populations. This will include specific case studies that highlight both the successes and failures of the Convention; (3) implementation and enforcement of the Convention; and (4) consideration of the Convention’s value and potential for addressing the extinction crisis.

Panelists: Johanna Hamburger, Animal Welfare Institute; Chris Wold, Lewis & Clark Law School; Tanya Sanerib, Center for Biological Diversity

*Making Room for Wild Horses and Burros (EMU 146)

Climate change, commercial industries, and habitat destruction pose an increasing risk to public lands in the western United States. As a result, competition between native wildlife and human consumption of natural resources on these lands is expected to further intensify. Caught in the middle of this competition is the fate of America’s wild horses and burros, a majority of which are found in the West. This panel will discuss the status of wild horses and burros, their current legal protection, the role of the public in planning decisions, and the fervent debate surrounding the appropriate number of wild horses and burros that should be allowed to remain on our public lands.

Panelists: Jennifer Best, Friends of Animals; Erik Molvar, Western Watersheds Project; Craig Downer, Wildlife Ecologist; Steve Hernick, Friends of Animals

*Sitting at Noon: Fighting for Clean Water Act Protection (LAW 241)

The Supreme Court has repeatedly undermined the Clean Water Act, and the administration is proposing changes that would allow states to limit the Act’s reach further. The Sacketts’ case is the most recent example, and the Court is hearing oral arguments in December 2022. This panel will consider the potential implications for future Supreme Court decisions, and what the implications are for the future of the Clean Water Act.

Panelists: Cale Jaffe, University of Virginia School of Law; Steph Tai, University of Wisconsin School of Law; Robin Craig, USC Gould School of Law; Janette Brimmer, Earthjustice
*Exploring the Environmental Injustices Caused by Gerrymandering (LAW 141)
In 2021 and 2022, the Ohio Environmental Council engaged directly in Ohio’s redistricting fight. Over the past few years, the Southern Environmental Law Center has led litigation in North Carolina to fight for a better democracy in that state. At the crux of these fights is a committed understanding that without a healthy democracy, communities cannot have a healthy environment. This presentation will explore the fundamental principles of gerrymandering and redistricting, the direct environmental injustices created by gerrymandered maps, the related legal fights in Ohio and North Carolina, and the state of redistricting at the national stage. The core of our discussion centers on the importance of environmental advocates and attorneys including democracy in their fight for a better environment. Similarly, we propose that an emphasis on place-based mapmaking driven by communities and how they understand their surrounding environment and geography should be a foundational principle for all districts at the local, state, and federal level.
Panelists: Chris Tavenor, Ohio Environmental Council; Callia Téllez, The Ohio State University; Yuri Rudensky, Brennan Center for Justice; Kym Meyer, Southern Environmental Law Center

Fossil Free Eugene: A just transition from the grassroots (LAW 184)
Fossil Free Eugene is an inter-movement coalition made up of dedicated, economic, and climate justice organizations in Eugene dedicated to forwarding policies to equitably reduce the city’s emissions and transition our community away from fossil fuels. This panel will provide an overview of our campaign — our goals, tactics, and next steps. Panelists will highlight the importance of the coalition in creating a multidimensional campaign representing a wide range of stakeholders.
Panelists: Paige Hopkins, Beyond Toxics; Bethany Cotton, Cascadia Wildlands; Jerrel Brown, NAACP Eugene-Springfield Chapter; Victoria Whalen, Student Advocacy and Action for Environmental Justice; Bailey Filley, UO Climate Justice League

*State Wildlife Litigation: Wolves as a Case Study (LAW 241)
In February 2021, a Wisconsin state court judge forced the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to hold a public hunt of gray wolves after the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service removed the wolf from the federal endangered species list. Hunters eliminated 20% of the wolf population in Wisconsin, by some estimates, in just three days, in violation of indigenous treaty rights. In November 2022, a Montana state court judge issued a temporary injunction protecting wolves around Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks from the State’s annual public hunt. The court ultimately lifted the temporary injunction after the State demonstrated that the death of 40% of the State’s wolf population would not cause population collapse, meaning the plaintiffs could not prove irreparable injury. This panel will feature the lead attorneys and plaintiff organizations in both cases.
Panelists: Jessica Blome, Greenfire Law; PC; Claire Loeb Davis, Animal & Earth Advocates; Melissa Smith, Friends of Wisconsin Wolf & Wildlife; Dr. Michelle Lute, Project Coyote; Lizzy Pennock, WildEarth Guardians

*Building Electrification, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the End of “Natural” Fracked Gas (LAW 243)
A discussion about the building decarbonization benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act, and the broader campaign for transitioning the United States’ building stock off of methane gas to clean, renewable electricity. Looking at the federal implications of new funding and programs from the IRA, gaps that the IRA has not yet filled, as well as looking locally in Eugene and across the State about the campaigns to shut down the polluting industry and ensure clean and safe homes and buildings for all.
Panelists: Nihal Shrinath, Sierra Club; Amneh Minkara, Sierra Club; Nick Caleb, Breach Collective

Poisonous Prisons (LAW 281)
The environmental justice movement has become a focus of discourse in recent decades. One of the forefronts of this conversation is the environmental harm to prison populations. Our prison populations have faced contaminated drinking water, facilities located near waste dumps and toxic coal plants and our federal government has continued to neglect the conversation about the impacts on incarcerated individuals. Thus, this panel seeks to provide awareness towards this ongoing issue through an activist-led lens along with legal discourse on how to challenge these toxic prisons.
Panelists: Adam Mahoney, Capital B; Dustin McDaniel, Abolition Law Center; Ducky Joseph, Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons; Bigg Villainus, Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons

M-44s: Why is the federal government planting cyanide bombs on the public lands? (EMU 104)
Every year, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services places deadly M-44 “cyanide bombs” on lands accessible to the public with the intention of killing coyotes to protect domestic livestock. These deadly devices are a hazard to native predators, pets, and the public.
While the Oregon Legislature, in 2016, passed a law making M-44s illegal in Oregon, Wildlife Services continues to use them and also distributes them for public use in some states. And the EPA recently reauthorized the use of sodium cyanide in M-44s despite overwhelmingly negative public comments. Panelists will discuss legislative and litigation efforts to ban M-44s and stop the war waged on our native wildlife in the name of domestic livestock grazing.
Panelists: Erik Molvar, Western Watersheds Project; Brooks Fahy, Predator Defense; Carson Barylak; Talasi Brooks, Western Watersheds Project

Warrior Sisters Self-Defense Course (LAW 242)
Warrior Sisters self-defense training is inclusive, anti-oppressive, empowerment-based self-defense that incorporates awareness, verbal boundaries, and a range of physical self-defense techniques. Open to all cis and trans sisters and non-binary kin.

*The Road to Zero Emissions: Oregon’s Clean Energy Transition (EMU 119)
In 2021, the Oregon legislature passed the landmark 100% Clean Energy Law HB 2021. However, the law covers a limited segment of Oregon’s energy landscape. This panel will discuss policy levers to expand Oregon’s clean energy transition beyond the territories of the Investor Owned Utilities and Electricity Service Suppliers.
Panelists: Joshua Basofin, Climate Solutions; Carra Sahler, Green Energy Institute; Alessandra de la Torre, Rogue Climate; Christy Splitt, Oregon Department of Energy
Climate Change and Mental Health (EMU 146)
This panel will discuss preparing, coping, and learning about mental health effects from climate change.
Panelists: Mike Meyer, LCSW, CADC I, QMHP; Jill Leffingwell, LCSW

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. • PANEL 11

*BLM’s No Good Very Bad Day (LAW 142)
This panel will discuss recent legal developments under NEPA and FLPMA pertaining to the Bureau of Land Management’s new Resource Management Plan for Oregon and Northern California.
Panelists: Sangye Ince-Johannsen, Western Environmental Law Center; Kelsey Furman, KS Wild; Erin Hogan-Fremole, Crag Law Center; Marlee Goska, Western Environmental Law Center

Moving Beyond Charismatic Megafauna: Challenges and Opportunities in Biodiversity Advocacy (LAW 184)
This panel will discuss the real issues that biodiversity advocates run into when fighting on behalf of “non-charismatic” species (i.e., those that don’t naturally lend themselves to a press campaign or billboard, etc.), and how to address those issues. It will also trouble the idea of “charisma” in the first place (i.e., all species have value and are worth fighting for, even if they don’t appeal to some humans’ aesthetic sensibilities). The panel will be both a theoretically rich interrogation of “charisma,” as well as a primer in practical tactics for attorneys and other advocates.
Panelists: Scott Stern, Earthjustice; Jeremy FiveCrows, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; Michelle Nijhuis, the Atlantic; Sarina Jepsen, Xerces Society

Oregon’s Climate Change Social Vulnerability Assessment (LAW 241)
The state’s climate change vulnerability assessment aims to identify bottom-up approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation that reflect regional values and lifeways. This panel will describe the theoretical basis, on-the-ground challenges, and results from a series of on-going workshops, interviews, and surveys. We aim to not only share what we’ve heard but also to learn from attendees before the project wraps up in June of 2023.
Panelists: Christine Shirley, State of Oregon; Melissa Graciosa, UO Institute for Policy Research and Engagement

LGBTQIA2S+ Voices Within the Environmental Movement (LAW 281)
LGBTQIA2S+ voices have historically been excluded from the mainstream environmental movement, which has repercussions for the way that communities connect with nature and activism. This panel will discuss queer ecology and the lack of representation within media and grassroots coalitions, as well as the ways environmental hazards disproportionately affect specific communities. Panelists will speak on transphobia within activist groups, climate change dangers, and the need for intersectionality in a movement that has long been stuck in western ideals.
Panelists: Leo Goldman, OUT4S; Joel Holzman, Axios; Isaias Hernandez; Zephyr Elise; Chris Talbot-Heindl

*FOIA Funny Business (LAW 282)
A brief overview of the Freedom of Information Act and then get into the antics agencies try to pull like segmenting requests, funneled through theory, subjective search terms, preemptively claiming privilege prior to search, cutoff date issues…. A here’s what to watch out for and possible ways to challenge them in FOIA litigation. Will also get into how to submit a FOIA request, exhaustion, appeals, and filing a case in Federal Court.
Panelists: Matthew Sandler, Rocky Mountain Wild; Travis Stills, Energy and Conservation Law

Student Activism for Fossil Fuel Divestment (EMU 104)
There has been a recent emergence of student led divestment movements in Universities across the country. Various avenues toward divestment have been tried, however under the Uniform Prudent Management Act, further pressure can be put on such organizations that are reluctant to divest. Additionally, divestment is increasingly becoming a safe fiduciary choice as we see more and more states and cities move away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy as their main energy source.
Panelists: Annabelle Ackling, UMKC School of Law; Irma Russell, UMKC School of Law; Mary “Callan” Bell; Penelope Ackling

Environmental Constitutionalism: New Concepts for Sustainable Development or Whitewash (EMU 146)
Environmental constitutionalism is a relatively recent phenomenon at the confluence of constitutional law, international law, human rights, and environmental law. This panel is intended to highlight different developments in Africa (on base of the example of Congo basin states), Latin America (on base of the “good life”-principle in the Peruvian constitution) and Europe (on base of the EU Treaty which serves as a kind of EU constitution and the German constitution). The panelists will shortly introduce the concepts of the constitutions, but will also discuss the question if there is a material surplus of introducing environment into constitutions or if these is not much more than a whitewash.
Panelists: Dr. Eike Albrecht, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg; Dr. Alicia Ann Epstein, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg; Azaufa Takunjuh Ngundem Betaah, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg

Toward Truly Healthy Forests with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (EMU 230)
Panelists will share (1) some Traditional ways to help create genuinely healthy forests that can also meet humans needs, like restoring resiliency to fire-prone forests, and nurturing the relationship between soil ecology and fire, as well as (2) opinion polling that shows strong support among Oregonians for these practices.
Panelists: Dr. Cristina Eisenberg, Oregon State University; Colin Beck, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; Ashley Russell, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; Robin Quirke, Oregon Values and Beliefs Center; Amaury Vogel, Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.
12:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. • KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
(EMU Ballroom)  
CRISTINA EISENBERG

2:15 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. CLOSING CEREMONIES  
(EMU Ballroom)

We hope to see you next year for PIELC 2024!
GUIDELINES FOR CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

A large number of people from different cultures, countries, and communities will attend this conference. For some, this may be the first time they interact with such a diverse group of people. Cultural differences involve different protocols and procedures for communication, and ignorance of these differences may lead to misunderstandings. All conference attendees should approach others with respect and make an honest effort to observe and understand different modes of communication. While it is impossible to synthesize a single protocol for interacting with all Peoples, please be mindful of the following guidelines:

- In general, try to show respect at all times, especially to elders in the group.
- Act as you would in front of your own leaders, spiritual people, and role models.
- If someone seems to be deeply focused, it is best to be patient and respectful. Please wait for their attention.
- Be respectful of silence.
- Do not speak of indigenous cultures in the past tense. There are many thriving indigenous Peoples among us today.
- Many non-Western cultures do not practice the “firm business handshake,” and some cultures may feel that it is impolite to stare directly into someone’s eyes. Try to follow the social cues of those with whom you are interacting.
- Do not exclude people; treat everyone as your relatives.
- Some speakers may choose to open a talk with a prayer or song.
- It is a sign of respect to stand at these times and not to take pictures.
- Do not walk between or interrupt people who are speaking. If you would like to join the conversation, wait for them to give you their attention.
- Please, silence your cell phones and other electronic devices while attending a panel.
- Always ask before photographing or recording someone.
- Prayer is very important, and there are many ways people pray.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL COURTESY

Please remember, law school and other university classes will be in session all day Thursday and Friday morning.

RECORDING POLICY

Attendees may record keynote presentations with their own equipment. If you need additional technical information, please contact UO Event Services at (541) 346-6000.

All participants in audio or video recording acknowledge and respect the copyrights and exclusive ownership of the performances by the presenters. All taping must be for personal use only, which may include trading. Recordings may be traded only for an equivalent amount of similar media. All recordings made at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference are strictly for educational use only and shall not be distributed for financial gain of any kind. Unauthorized sale, duplication, and/or distribution are strictly forbidden. We reserve the right to withdraw our sanction of non-commercial recording on a case-by-case basis or as we deem necessary. No waiver of any copyright or trademark right is intended.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accomodations for people with disabilities will be provided, if requested in advance, by calling 541-357-7388.

The University of Oregon access shuttle is an on-campus ride service provided at no cost to students, faculty, staff, and visitors with conditions that limit mobility. The shuttle operates Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There is not shuttle service on Saturday, Sunday, or on university recognized holidays. The shuttle operates Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There is not shuttle service on Saturday, Sunday, or on university recognized holidays. To schedule a ride, visit: https://transportation.uoregon.edu/content/access-shuttle. To make changes, call: 541-852-2561.

PANEL ROOM CAPACITY DISCLAIMER

Please observe room capacity when attending panels. Panels are hosted on a first come, first serve basis. Thank you for understanding.

REPRESENTATION DISCLAIMER

PIELC Co-Directors, Representatives, and Student volunteers do not claim to represent or support any of the information shared during the course of this conference. We work hard to create a fair forum for all backgrounds to share experiences, thoughts, and beliefs. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE 41ST ANNUAL PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE!