

3rd Annual ELI Skills Workshop in Public Interest Environmental Law

April 20–21, 2012
Georgetown University Law Center, McDonough #160

Day 1 (Friday, April 20)

8:30 – 9:00	Course Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome and Introduction <i>Chandra L. Middleton, Environmental Law Institute</i>
9:10 – 10:00	The Role of Law and the Public Interest Organization <i>Eric Schaeffer, Environmental Integrity Project</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:45	Rulemaking, Public Commenting, and Working with Agencies Covers the basics of agency rulemaking process, how to effectively participate in that process as well as more informal ways to influence agency decision making, and why engaging in the administrative process is an important part of being a public interest environmental lawyer. <i>Grant MacIntyre, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i> <i>Margot Pollans, Georgetown University Law Center</i>
11:45 – 1:00	Lunch*
1:00 – 1:45	Keynote Address – Environmental Law in the Public Interest <i>Patrice Simms, Howard University School of Law</i>
1:45 – 3:15	Breakout: Coalition Building and Working with Networks Strategies for building alliances with other advocacy and litigation groups at the local, state, and regional level. This session will also cover how to build effective and sustained collaborative actions that are based on mutual relationships and meeting the organizational needs of network members. <i>Jim Abernathy, Abernathy Consulting</i> <i>George Sorvalis, Water Protection Network and National Wildlife Federation</i>
1:45 – 3:15	Breakout: Science, Law, and Policy How do scientific investigations, reports, and uncertainty affect public interest law and policy? This session will cover how to interpret, use, and communicate technical and scientific issues in litigation and policy work. <i>Francesca Grifo, Union of Concerned Scientists</i> <i>Martha Marrapese, Keller and Heckman LLP</i>
3:15 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 5:00	Environmental Justice and Working with Communities Focuses on developing meaningful work with low-income communities who have significant environmental problems, but limited resources and capacity to address them. The presenters will address the use of environmental laws and alternative dispute resolution to tackle environmental justice issues. <i>Vernice Miller-Travis, Md. State Comm. on EJ & Sustainable Communities</i> <i>Suzi Ruhl, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i>

5:15 – 6:15

Welcome and Reception

Peter Byrne, Georgetown University Law Center

Day 2 (Saturday, April 21)

9:00 – 10:30

Media Strategies

This session will explore (through discussion, video, and simulation) interactions between public interest organization staff and media, discussing strategies to garner attention and support for legal and policy positions. Special emphasis on ways to communicate legal concepts to enhance overall understanding. Participants should be prepared to discuss their own experience (either as a participant or observer or consumer) of media advocacy.

Kim Connolly, University at Buffalo Law School

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – 11:45

Negotiation, Settlement, and Working with Opposing Parties

Deals with advocating your organization's position to groups representing different viewpoints, and determining an appropriate degree of compromise on various policy issues. The presenter has extensive experience with alternative dispute resolution, mediation ethics, civil litigation, and policy development. Attendees are asked to bring examples of negotiations from their own work.

David Batson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

11:45 – 1:00

Lunch*

1:00 – 3:30

The Role of Litigation

This session will cover some of the technicalities of building a case: how to choose the right case and the right plaintiff, standing, ripeness, exhaustion, 60-day notice letters, and/or settling a case. All of the presenters are experienced environmental litigators, and will be drawing from their personal and professional experience.

Adam Babich, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

James Pew, Earthjustice

3:30 – 3:45

Break

3:45 – 4:45

Lobbying and Legislation Strategy

Examines the law and policy nexus, and discusses strategies for influencing their development as well as ensuring appropriate implementation and transparency.

Nat Mund, Southern Environmental Law Center

Lorie Schmidt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4:45 – 5:00

Reflections and Conclusion

Chandra Middleton – Environmental Law Institute

*Lunch will not be provided. Maps to local lunch spots will be provided.