Moderator Biography

Joe Steinbacher is a Technical Director at O'Brien & Gere, where he leads the company's Natural Resource Liability Practice. Prior to joining O'Brien & Gere, Joe worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Office of Response and Restoration (ORR). With over 15 years of professional experience in Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and natural resource management, Joe has been directly involved in some of the largest Superfund and oil spill damage assessments in the country, including the Lower Passaic River Study Area and the Hudson River Superfund Site.

As an interdisciplinary ecologist, Joe possesses a broad technical background with an emphasis on environmental contamination. He has directed numerous scientific investigations in aquatic, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and applied his skill set in academic, government and commercial settings to develop solutions to environmental challenges that foster sustainable outcomes. He has successfully led technical working groups through the injury assessment process to value injured resources and identify restoration options, in a timely and efficient manner.

Joe has been invited to deliver workshops on the effective execution of cooperative NRDA for the Department of Defense and numerous industry groups. He is a skilled facilitator and consensus-builder, and has effectively managed the needs and expectations of multiple stakeholders to drive the NRDA process in an efficient and cost-effective fashion. For his contributions to NRDA projects, Joe was awarded the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal and the United States Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation.

EDUCATION:
MBA, Strategic Management,
Loyola University –
Sellinger School of Business and Management

MS, Environmental Chemistry,
University of Maryland

BA, Biology,
St. Mary's College of Maryland

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