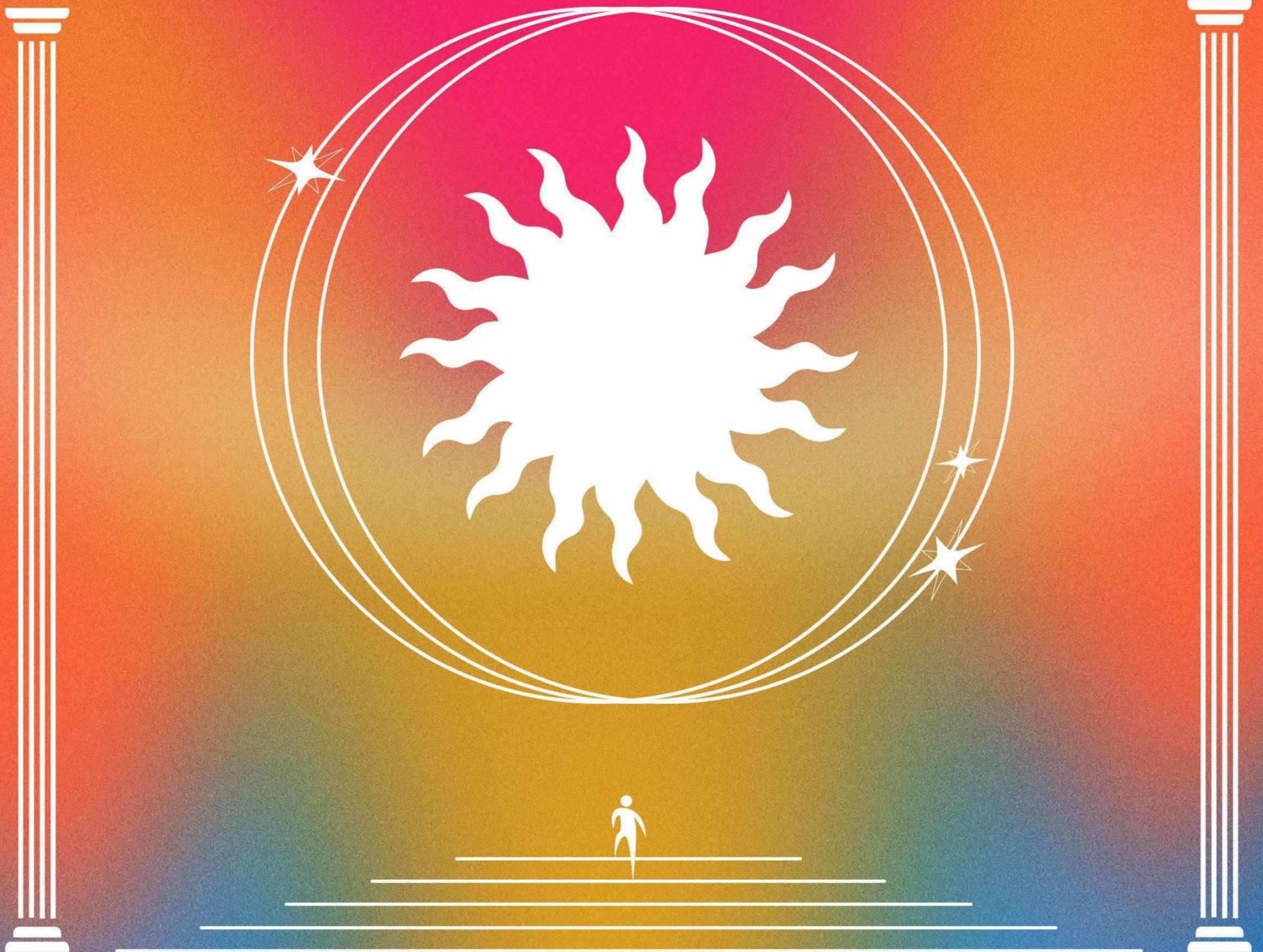


# PIELC

***RISING TO THE CHALLENGE:  
JUSTICE ON THE HORIZON***



**FEB 28th-MAR 2nd, 2025**  
**University of Oregon**  
**1515 Agate Street**  
**Eugene, OR 97403**



**43<sup>rd</sup>**  
**PUBLIC INTEREST**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**  
**CONFERENCE**

**Free to the Public**  
**All are Welcome**  
**Register Online**  
**PIELC.org**





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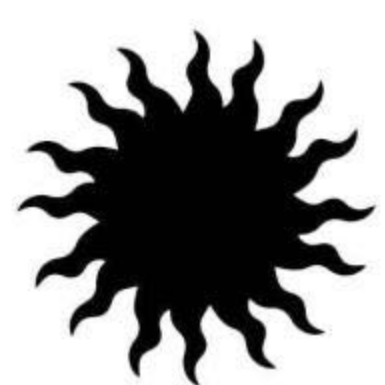




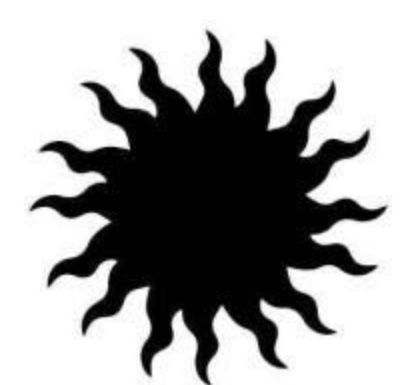
# Welcome!

Land Air Water is excited to welcome you to the 43rd annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC), held in Eugene, Oregon from Friday, February 28th through Sunday, March 2nd, 2025.

For the past 43 years, over 50,000 concerned people from across the globe have come together in Eugene for the oldest and largest public interest environmental law conference in the world. Land Air Water, a wholly volunteer student group at the University of Oregon School of Law, hosts the event. The Conference attracts activists, advocates, attorneys, scientists, government officials, and concerned citizens together to share information and strategies that will more effectively further the goals of environmental and social justice. It puts ideas into action, sparks renewed commitment to the protection of the environment across borders and has inspired the creation of public interest environmental and human rights organizations.



## ***Rising to the Challenge: Justice on the Horizon***



### **Theme**

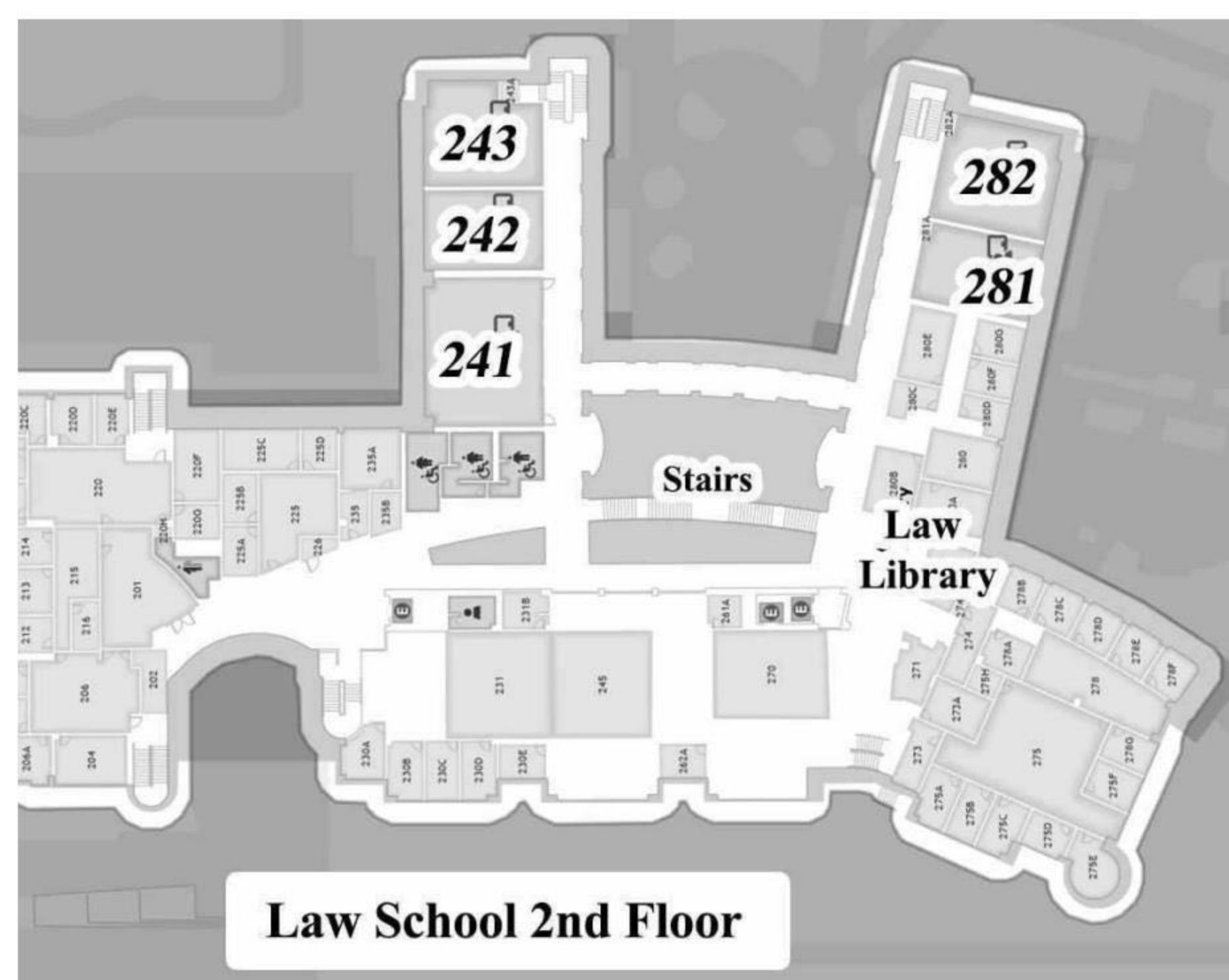
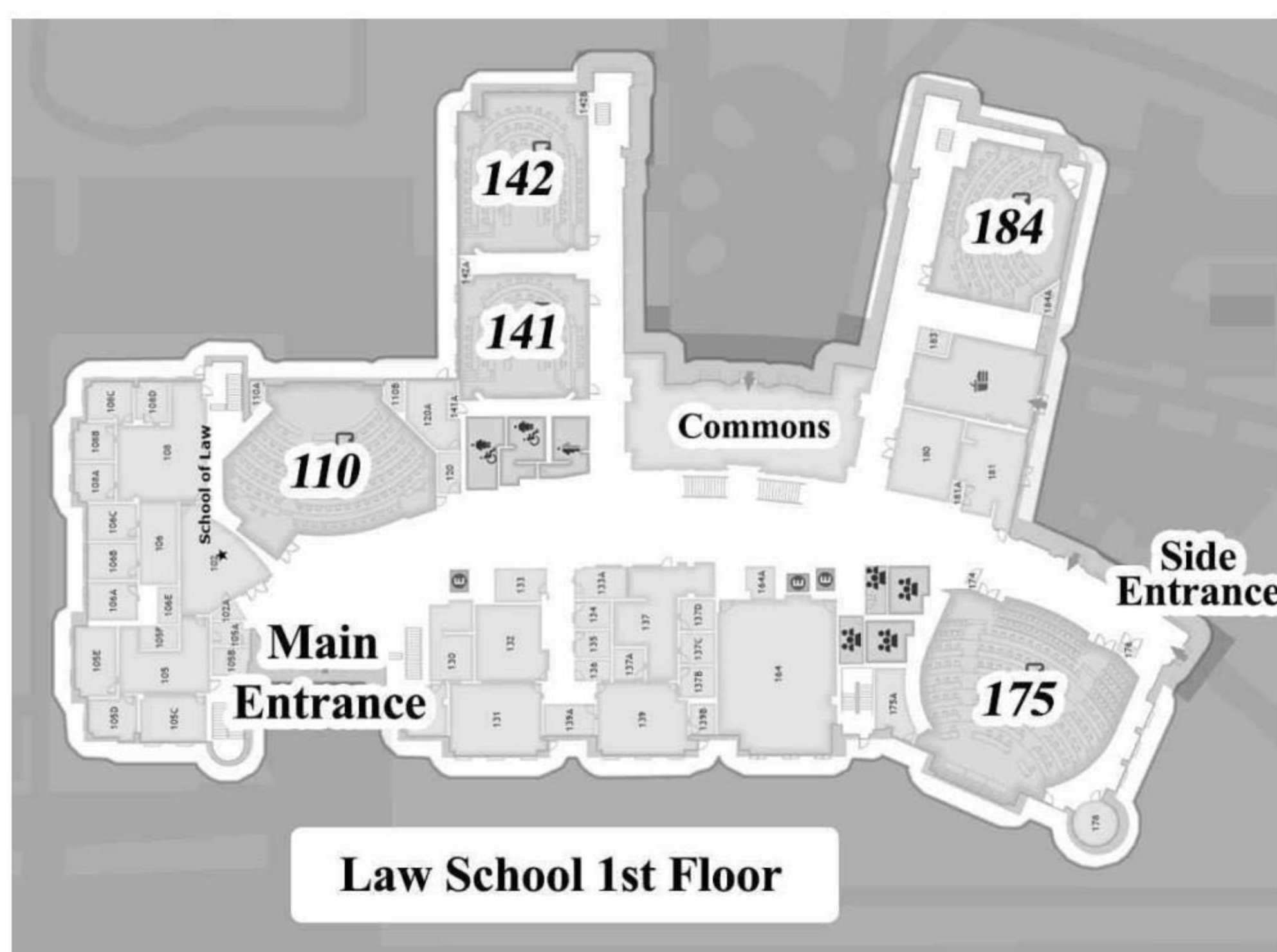
This year's theme is *Rising to the Challenge: Justice on the Horizon*. Through this theme, we want to address the significant challenges and obstacles that we face as a collective to effectuate positive environmental change. We also hope to celebrate diverse leaders in the environmental movement and highlight important voices that continue to build a more inclusive, community-minded approach to addressing the environmental challenges currently present in our world.



*On behalf of Land Air Water's 2025 board members, we  
want to wish you a wonderful conference!*



# Campus Map



## Parking Info

Metered Street Parking (coins/card/app)

- Pay to park Friday & Saturday
- Free on Sunday

## Parking Garages

- Visitor parking is available in the 13th Avenue Garage located beneath the Ford Alumni Center for a fee.
- Mill Race Drive parking garage.

## Bus

- Find more info on Eugene's bus system at [ltd.org](http://ltd.org).

## Rideshare

- Lyft and Uber operate in Eugene.

Find more parking and travel info on [pielc.org](http://pielc.org) under "Travel."

## QUESTIONS?

Stop by the information desk,  
flag down a PIELC volunteer,  
or check our website at  
[www.pielc.org](http://www.pielc.org).

## WIFI GUEST ACCOUNT LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

1. On your computer or mobile device, select the "UO Guest" wireless network. You will be redirected.
2. Accept the terms and conditions
3. You are now connected to the internet!



PIELC Instagram: @pielc\_uo



PIELC Facebook:

Public Interest Environmental  
Law Conference (PIELC)





# ***Land Acknowledgement***

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We would like to acknowledge that this conference is being held on the traditional lands of the Kalapuya Peoples. These ancestral homelands are where Kalapuya peoples and their descendants have worked, raised children, and worshiped since time immemorial. They have stewarded this land throughout the generations in spite of tremendous efforts by the U.S. government and the state of Oregon to disrupt this relationship. We pay our respect to the Kalapuya peoples' ancestors and descendants.

The Kalapuya Peoples originally resided across over one million acres in the Willamette and the Umpqua valleys and have lived here for over 14,000 years. The traditional lands of the Kalapuya Peoples were stolen by the U.S. government in the Treaty of Calapooia Creek on November 29th, 1854. Following this treaty, many Kalapuya Peoples were, over the span of twenty years, forcibly removed to the Grand Ronde and Siletz Reservations. Today, many Kalapuyan descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. They continue to be leaders within their communities and beyond.

In following the Indigenous protocol of acknowledging the original people of the land we occupy, we also want to recognize the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, 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 express our respect to the many more Tribes who have ancestral connections to this territory, as well as to all other displaced Indigenous peoples who call Oregon home.

We would also like to bring attention to the fact that Indigenous people have been building communities outside of colonial structures and systems of oppression for thousands of years and continue to resist these structures and systems today. Within Oregon alone, over 180,000 people identify as Indigenous. Part of the commitment to advancing Tribal sovereignty is adhering to the self-determined goals of all nations. We open space and recognition for the effort of Indigenous people to continue these community goals outside of colonial frameworks.

There is a history of misrepresentation and false stereotypes of Indigenous people/s that are especially prevalent in forums like this one and require non-Indigenous people to educate themselves and dispel these notions. Uplifting and promoting the continued development of Indigenous knowledge systems is one of many ways to do this. We explicitly encourage you to engage with panels at this conference that focus on Indigenous thought leadership. To name a few, these include: (1) Rising to the Challenge: NARF's Tribal Water Institute and Advancing Water Justice in Indian Country, (2) The Fight to Save Oak Flat: Using Litigation to Protect a Sacred Site on Public Lands, (3) Next steps in a just clean energy transition: upholding Indigenous rights by reforming mining laws and addressing the need for critical minerals, (4) Working Remotely: Lessons learned in the fight against the Donlin mine in Alaska, (5) Creating Tribal Relationships Through Yellowstone Bison, (6) Tribal Inclusion Needs Fire Inclusion in the Northwest Forest Plan, (7) The First Tribally Nominated National Marine Sanctuary, (8) Indigenous-Led Resistance to False Climate Solutions: Resisting Green Colonialism for Real Solution to Climate Crisis, (9) *Apache Stronghold v. USA*: Context, Contours, Current Status, and Perspectives (10) The Arachne Project | Conservation for an Interwoven World, Unravelling, (11) Protecting Sacred Places on Public Land, Air & Water.

We encourage a methodology of graciousness and reciprocity when attending these panels and others. Consider whether your perspective as a non-Indigenous person is needed, as silence itself can be a discourse that defends space for others to be creative. This might mean you spend an hour sitting quietly or encouraging others to speak.



## Many Nations Longhouse

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.

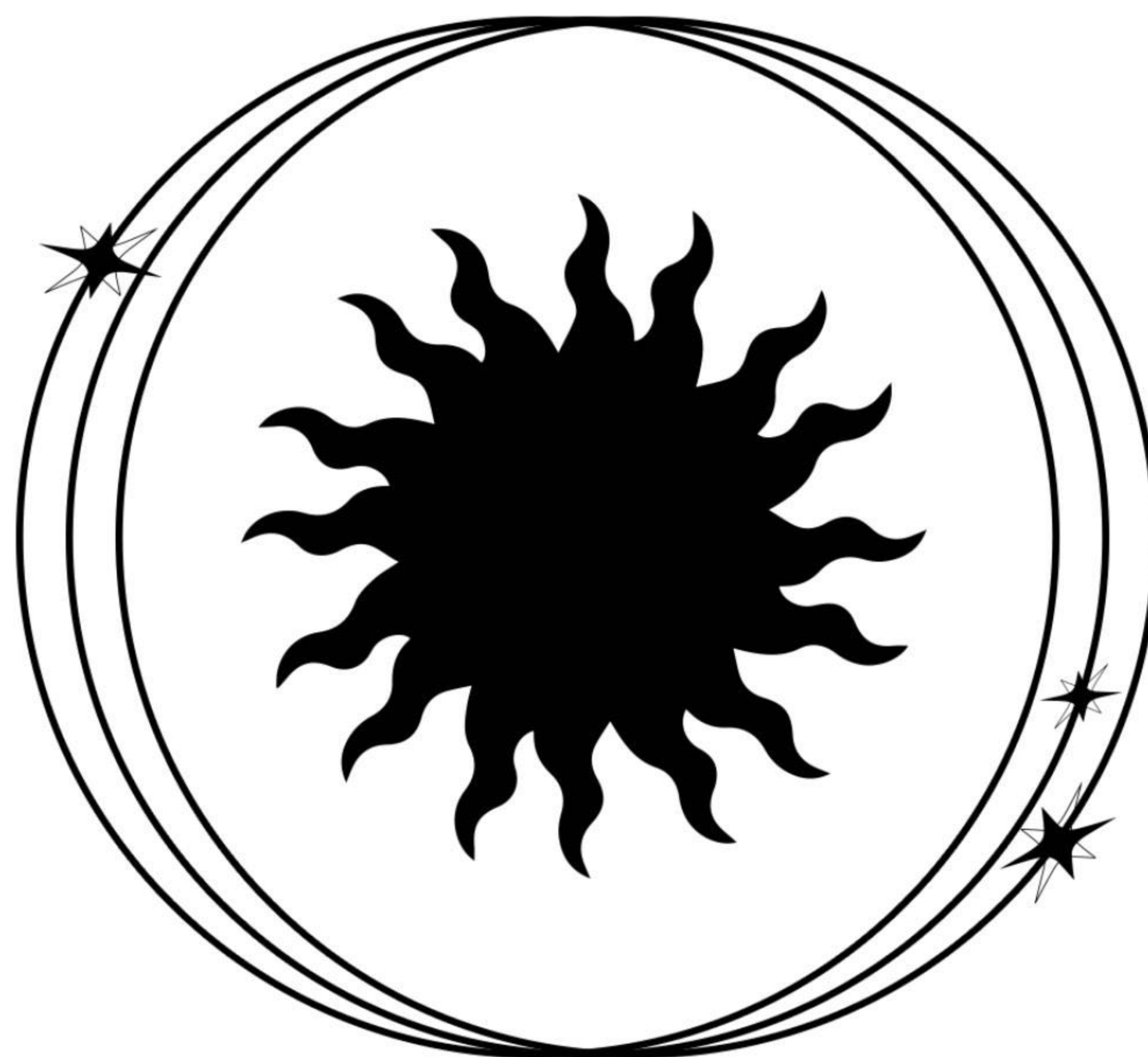
### *LONGHOUSE PROTOCOLS AND CODES OF CONDUCT*

- 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 inside.
- 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.

## Diversity & Inclusion

PIELC and its organizers are committed to hosting an event that includes and celebrates people and organizations of diverse backgrounds.

We are committed to fostering understanding, communication and respect among all people, including people of different races, religions, ages, genders, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, national origins, sexual preferences or orientations, medical conditions or disabilities, and marital, veteran or family statuses. It is our belief that the public interest sphere, and the environmental community generally, should capitalize on the strengths emanating from these differences. Doing so allows advocacy to reach farther, serve clients more holistically, and acknowledge the interconnected nature of social and environmental concerns.





# Conference Sponsors

**Land Air Water** (LAW) is the world's oldest environmental law student society, founded in 1969. 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 anything and everything. 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/>.



## Statement of Inclusion

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.

## Special thanks to the following volunteers for organizing the conference:

Nicole Morshead**	Jonathan Nourblin*
Lily Miller**	Blake Dava*
Kate Tender**	Jay Everett*
Keiran Hadley*	Molly Cochran*
Morgan McWilliams*	Graham Wilson*
Allie Frazier*	Merrick Studer*
Jarrett Tardiff*	Noah Silverstein*
Abby Frazier*	Hope Morrissey*
Alicia Davis*	Anna Hampton*
Garrett Simmer*	Blakely Durham*
Abby Dompier*	Aaron Wolf
Meghan Hurst*	All PIELC Volunteers

*\*\* PIELC Conference Co-Director; \*Land Air Water Board Member*

## Land Air Water would like to thank the following organizations and individuals:

ENR Center	UO Law Faculty & Staff
Madi Prue	Karen Schneider
Heather Brinton	Campus Operations
John Bonine	Campus Recycling
Tom Housel	UO Law Tech Services
Doug Quirke	UO Printing
Dan Kruse	UO Media Services
Grace Brahler	UO Event Planning
Lindsey Hutchinson	Erb Memorial Union Services
Jack DelloRusso	Rebecca Mellnik
Peter Jensen	CaddoWoman
Sierra Waechter	UO NALSA
Parker Jones	UO Office of Sustainability
Tori Wilder	Café Mam
Noah Mikell	Falling Sky Brewery
Alexis Hammer	Sweet Life Patisserie
Gregory Dotson	ASUO
Dave Kennedy	All Panel Organizers
Mike Ragsdale	All Past FLAW Members
Katie Staton	All Past & Present Volunteers
Wild Duck	All Past CCDs
Many Nations Longhouse	
Native Environmental Sovereignty Project Fellows	



# PIELC Special Events

*February 28th - March 2nd*

## **“Coffee Break”**

Friday - Sunday, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

*Location: Knight Law Center (UO Law School) Commons*

Coffee will be available every day of PIELC from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.  
Pastries will be available every morning on a first come, first served basis.

*Feb 28th*

## **PIELC Party**

Friday, Feb 28, 5:00 PM

*Location: 1419 Villard Street, Eugene*

Come join us at Wild Duck Cafe for a celebration of the 43rd annual PIELC! Have great conversations with environmental public interest advocates, attorneys, students, and others. All are welcome! Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

*Feb 28th*

## **ENR Open House**

Friday, Feb 28, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

*Location: ENR Center (Suite 225)*

The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center (ENR) will kick off the first day of PIELC with the ENR Open House. All are welcome to stop by the Center for coffee and conversation!

*March 1st*

## **UO ENR Alumni Reception**

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 5:15 – 8:00 PM

*Location: Erb Memorial Union, Redwood Auditorium*

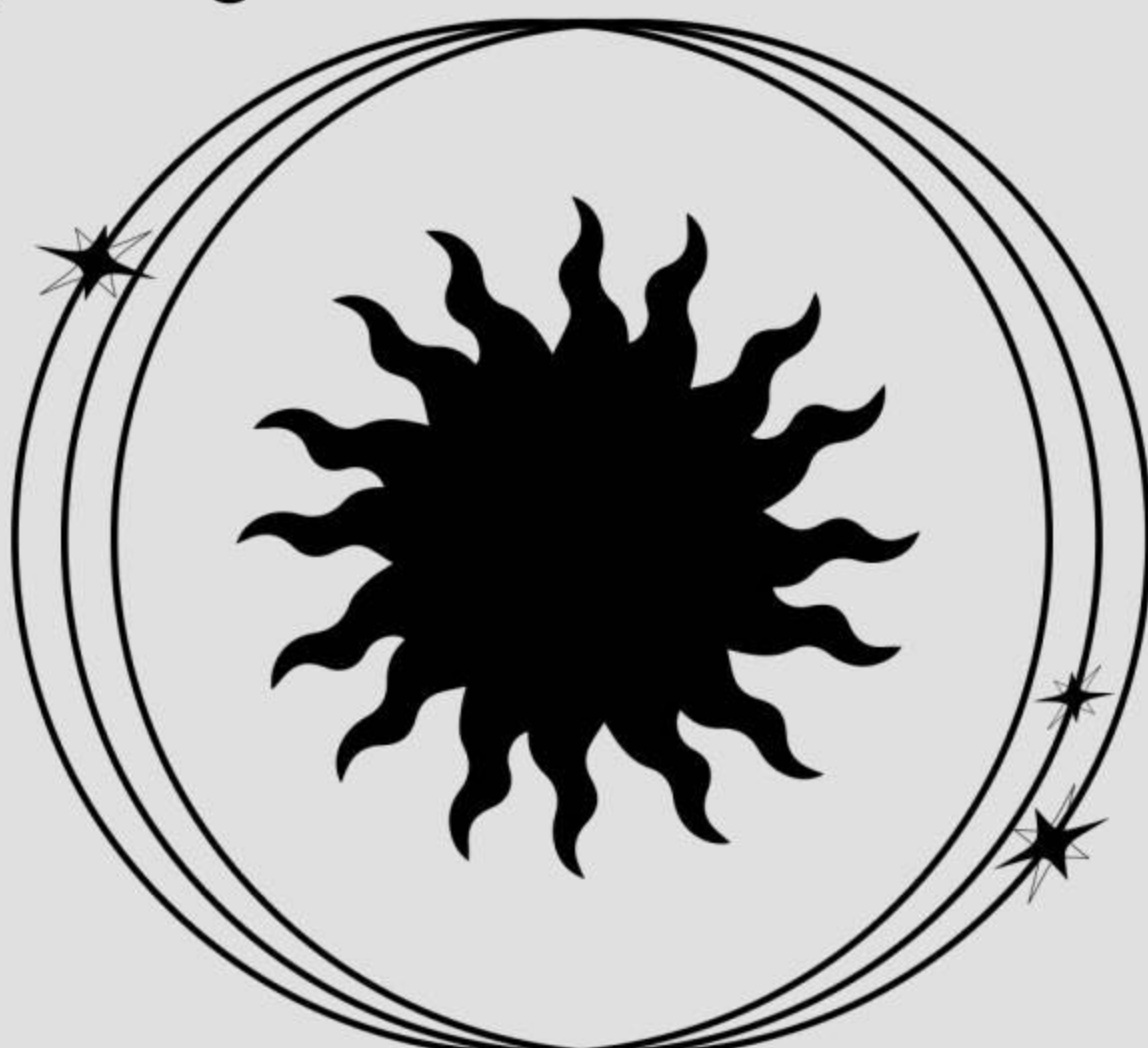
This event is for UO Law Alumni, current faculty, staff and students. There will be free food and drinks. Come join us for this social and networking event!

## **PIELC Party**

**Friday, Feb 28th, 5:00 PM**

**Location: 1419 Villard Street,**

**Eugene, Oregon 97403**

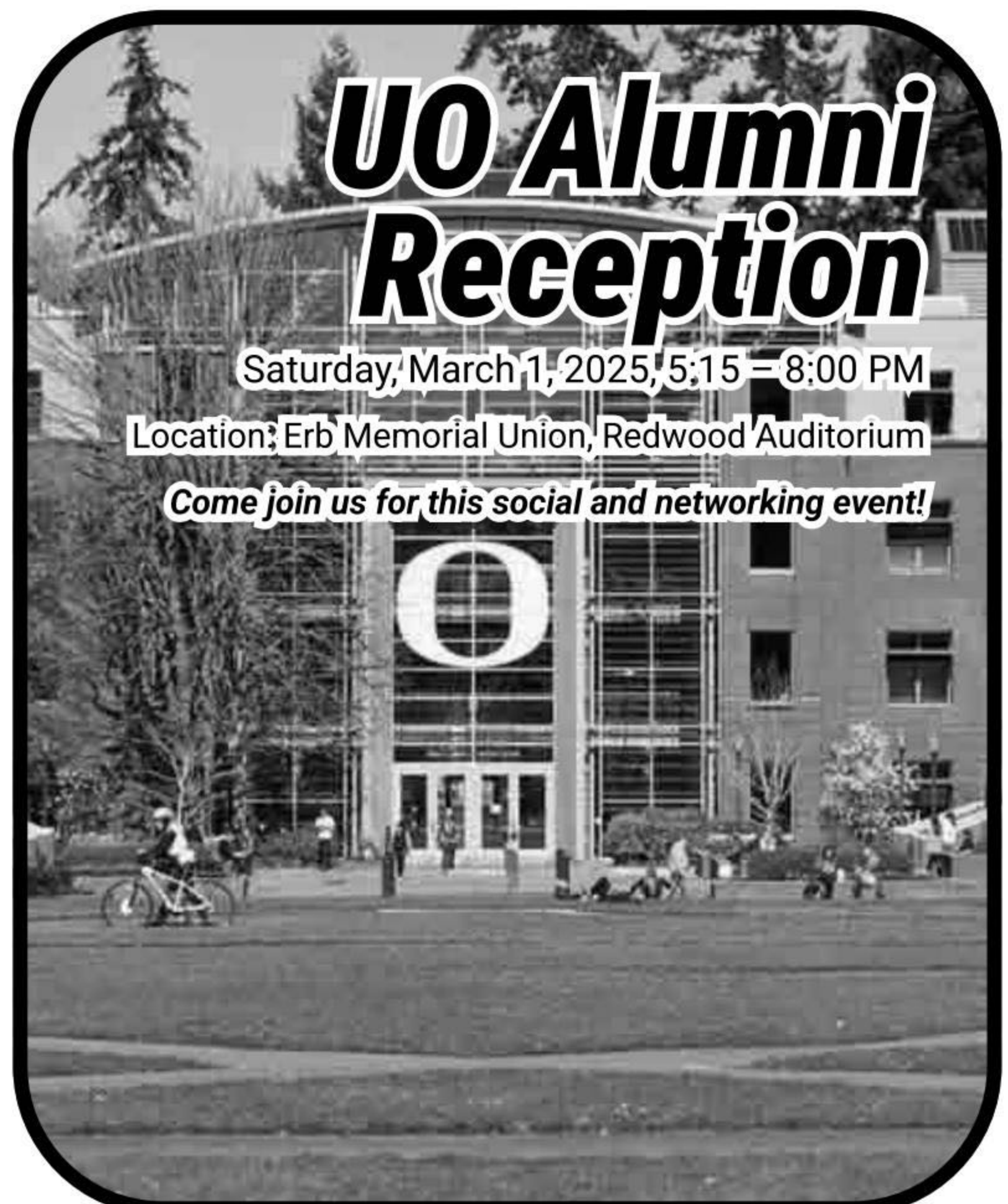


## **UO Alumni Reception**

**Saturday, March 1, 2025, 5:15 – 8:00 PM**

**Location: Erb Memorial Union, Redwood Auditorium**

**Come join us for this social and networking event!**





All Awards are on  
Sunday at 2:45pm  
EMU Ballroom

# Awards

## The Kerry Rydberg-Jack Tuholske Award for Public Interest Litigation

*Recipient: Claire Tonry*

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 36th year (2025), 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.

## The David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award

*Recipient: Bern Johnson*

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.

## The Svitlana Kravchenko Memorial Award

*Recipient: Pete Frost*

The Svitlana Kravchenko Memorial 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.



# Film Festival Schedule

## Friday, February 28

### ***We Are The Wood River Land Trust***

9:15 a.m. - Runtime: 20 minutes - No post-film Q&A

For 30 years, the Wood River Land Trust, located in Hailey, Idaho, has been powered by people who care deeply about preserving the Valley's wild places. They've protected nearly 28,000 acres, created 17 public access preserves, and restored over 14 miles of the Big Wood River and its tributaries. These efforts have given us cherished spaces to explore, recharge, and connect with nature. The Land River Land Trust will protect even more vital habitats for plants and animals, restore more river miles for trout and wildlife, and keep the Valley a vibrant place to live, work, and play—today and for generations to come.

### ***The Return of Nóouhàh-Toka'na (Swift Fox)***

9:45 a.m. - Runtime: 20 minutes - Virtual post-film Q&A

Nóouhàh-Toka'na, known as swift fox in English, once roamed the North American Great Plains from Canada to Texas. Like bison, pronghorn and other plains animals, Nóouhàh-Toka'na held cultural significance for the Native Americans who lived alongside them. But predator control programs in the mid-1900s reduced the foxes to just 10 percent of their native range. At the Fort Belknap Indian Community in Montana, members of the Aaniiih and Nakoda tribes are working with the Smithsonian and other conservation partners to restore biodiversity and return Nóouhàh-Toka'na to the land.

### ***Here We Stand and Where I Belong***

10:15 a.m. - Runtime: 30 minutes - No post-film Q&A

Here We Stand: For generations, conservation has been about keeping people out of places. Now, Save the Redwoods League and Teresa Baker ask what it would look like for conservation to include people, even those that normally are in the margins. Where I Belong: Growing up, Christine Hill saw the outdoors as a place that was full of bugs and too much worry. But after falling in love with climbing and discovering a sense of peace through summer camp, she decided this was something worth protecting. Now splitting her time between Washington, DC and Haines, AK, Chris is an environmental lobbyist and angler who comes alive and spreads joy while out on the river. Maybe a bit of competition too if the odds are right.

## Friday, February 28

### ***Follow the Water Film Series***

11:00 a.m. - Runtime: 45 minutes - Post-film Q&A

This film series explores our deep connection to water, the disconnection that modern life has created, and the journey to reconnect. Chapter 1 highlights water's essential role in life and the importance of protecting its purity. Chapter 2 examines how we have lost awareness of where our water comes from and where it goes, despite relying on it daily. Chapter 3 invites us to rediscover our relationship with water through personal stories, showing how small actions can foster a deeper connection and positive impact on our environment.

### ***Albatross***

12:00 p.m. - Runtime: 1 hr 38 min - No post-film Q&A

Albatross began in 2008 as a project to document the devastating impact of ocean plastic pollution on albatrosses in Midway Island, where thousands of birds were found dead with stomachs full of plastic. Over multiple visits, the project evolved into an intimate exploration of the birds' beauty, intelligence, and life cycles. Rejecting traditional documentary structures, the filmmaker spent years capturing and editing footage to create an emotional and symbolic work that transcends simple observation. To align with its message, Albatross was released as a free public artwork on Earth Day 2018, culminating in a United Nations screening on World Oceans Day. The film remains freely available, with efforts focused on spreading awareness through community screenings and social media.

### ***Monsters and The Essentials***

2:00 p.m. - Runtime: 40 minutes - Post-film Q&A

Over 100 concerned groups are opposing a new biomass energy project in California. The project proposes to burn trees for electricity - by converting them into wood pellets that will be shipped overseas to be incinerated in power plants. Steered forward by GSNR ("Golden State Natural Resources"), the project would harm communities and the climate with massive emissions, and would decimate forests.

## Sunday, March 2

### ***Valve Turners***

10:35 a.m. - Runtime: 1 hr 12 min - Post-film Q&A

Valve Turners follows a small group of activists from the Pacific Northwest as they turn the valves and halt the flow of five oil pipelines entering the United States from Canada to spotlight the climate emergency. Facing felony charges, they defend their actions as necessary in light of decades of political inaction and urgent warnings from climate scientists. The film asks: As the climate emergency escalates, at what point should citizens take action into their own hands to protect their families and communities?





# Keynote Speakers

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## *Tara Houska*

Feb 28 - 3:30-5:30p.m., EMU Ballroom



Tara Houska (Couchiching First Nation) is a mother, land defender, and attorney. She is the founder of Giniw Collective, an Indigenous women and two-spirit led effort committed to environmental justice, decolonial praxis, and life in balance.

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## *Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak*

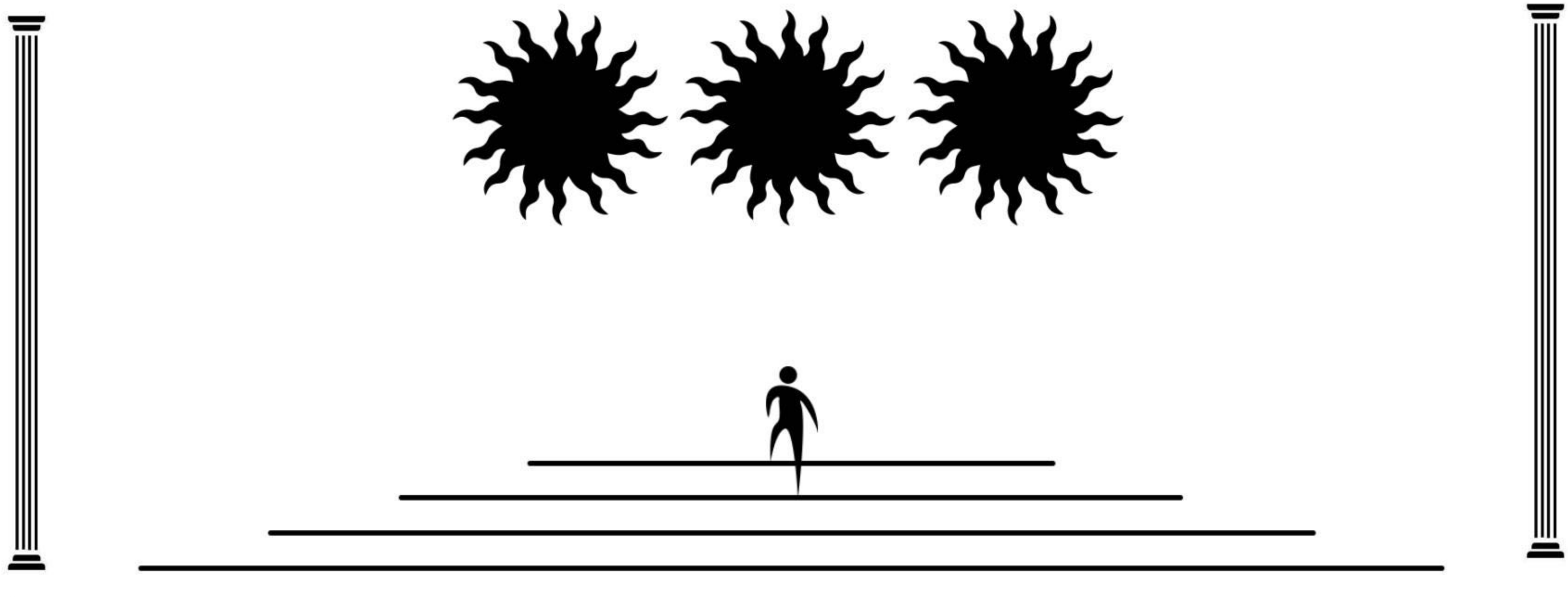
March 1, 12:00-2:00p.m., EMU Ballroom



Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak is an Inupiaq teacher, grandmother, mother, tribal leader, and the former Mayor for the Village of Nuiqsut. She stands for the life, health, safety, and the importance of tradition and culture for the people and animals living in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPRA). Ahtuanguaruak is also the founder of the non-profit,

Grandmothers Growing Goodness which actively advocates for protections and environmental justice in the NPRA.

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# Keynote Speakers

## *Enei Begay*

March 1, 12:00-2:00p.m., EMU Ballroom

Enei Begaye is of the Diné and Tohono O’odham Nations. She is the executive director of Native Movement, an Alaska based statewide grassroots advocacy organization. Enei has spent over 20 years engaging in solution building with multi-stakeholders in areas of energy, water, economics, and climate change; she has been instrumental in the development of numerous networks and organizations of grassroots social justice and environmental justice advocacy. She is also a co-founder and leader of the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition (FCAC) and Black Mesa Water Coalition (BMWC), an award-winning documentary film producer, and a member of numerous regional and national boards. Enei is a facilitator, a writer, a teacher, as well as a dirt loving, vegetable growing, fabric addicted, bookworm, and a fierce mother. She was educated on the land of her people and the halls of Stanford University. Enei is married into Neets’aai Gwich’in nation and currently lives on the lands of the lower Tanana Dena’ in the community of Fairbanks, Alaska with her partner and children.

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## *Maria Nuñez-Lopez*

March 2, 12:30-2:30p.m., EMU Ballroom

Maria Nuñez-Lopez is a power-builder, political strategist, and co-founder of Agency. A gladiator when fighting the political system, she brings about tangible results across clean energy, housing, democracy, and the environment for marginalized communities. Born in Honduras and raised in the Black and Brown communities of New York and New Jersey, she uses policy as a tool to create systematic change. Staunch in her belief that in order to win one must change the rules, she continues to enact meaningful legislation at the local, state, and federal level.

In 2021, President Biden appointed Maria to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). She proudly serves on the boards of the Climate Justice Alliance and the Civic Consortium, and is a recipient of the New Jersey’s Governor’s 2020 Environmental Excellence Award. She has advised the Climate Equity Committee of the Clean Air Task Force, Frontline Justice Fund, Clean Energy States Alliance Equity Advisory, Solidaire Movement Infrastructure Fund, and Building Equity and Alignment for Impact Initiative.

Maria played a vital role in the passage of the Environmental Justice Bill (EJ Bill; S232), the most powerful bill in the United States fighting the cumulative impacts of pollution. As a WHEJAC member, she co-chaired the Justice 40 Scorecard workgroup, recommending how the Environmental Justice Scorecard should be calculated; the Climate Planning, Preparedness, Recovery and Implementation workgroup, and the Carbon Management Workgroup, addressing carbon pipelines across the country.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Maria led the Compassionate New Jersey Coalition in halting evictions and foreclosures, all while funneling a combined \$1.25B in utilities and rental assistance throughout the state. She launched the “Stop shitting on Newark,” campaign, blocking construction of a sludge processing plant and the fourth power plant in the city. She helped pass the strongest Civilian Review Board in the country, fighting the police union all the way to the New Jersey Supreme Court. When the EPA failed to assess incinerator rules for 16 years, Maria joined the fight to sue under the Clean Air Act—opening the gateway to shut down hazardous incinerators nationwide.





# PIELC 2025

*Friday*



# SCHEDULE

8:00am

9:00am

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

1:00pm

2:00pm

3:00pm

4:00pm

5:00pm

6:00pm

7:00pm

8:00pm

9:00pm

10:00pm

11:00pm

## **Panel 1**

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

*details on pg.14*

## **Panel 2**

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

*details on pg.14-15*

## **Panel 3**

*1:30 - 3:00 p.m.*

*details on pg.16-17*

## **ENR Open House**

*9:00 AM - 1:00 PM*

*ENR Center (Suite 225)*

*details on pg.7*

## **Workshop 1**

*12:00 - 2:00 p.m.*

*details on pg.16*

## **Keynote 1 - Tara Houska**

*3:30-5:30 p.m. - EMU Ballroom*

*details on pg.10*

## **PIELC Party!**

*Wild Duck Cafe, 1419*

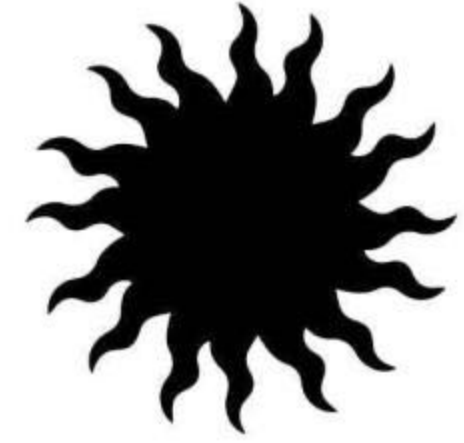
*Villard St.*

*details on pg.7*

Panels and events are subject to change, please check for schedule updates on [pielc.org](http://pielc.org) or via the PIELC Instagram (@pielc\_uo) or Facebook.



# At a Glance



## Saturday

## Sunday

8:00am

9:00am

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

1:00pm

2:00pm

3:00pm

4:00pm

5:00pm

6:00pm

7:00pm

8:00pm

9:00pm

10:00pm

11:00pm

### Panel 4

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.  
details on pg.18-19

### Workshop 2

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
details on pg.19

### Panel 7

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
details on pg.23

### Panel 5

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.  
details on pg.19-21

### Panel 8

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
details on pg.23

### Keynote 2 - Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak & Enei Begay

12:00-2:00 p.m. - EMU Ballroom  
details on pg.10-11

### Keynote 3 - Maria Nuñez-Lopez

12:30-2:30 p.m. - EMU Ballroom  
details on pg.11

### Panel 6

2:15 - 3:45 p.m.  
details on pg.21-22

### Workshop 3

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
details on pg.21

### Award Ceremony

2:45-4:45 p.m. - EMU Ballroom  
details on pg.8

### UO Alumni Reception

Erb Memorial Union, Redwood Auditorium  
5:15 - 8:00 PM  
details on pg.7

Panels and events are subject to change, please check for schedule updates on [pielc.org](http://pielc.org) or via the PIELC Instagram (@pielc\_uo) or Facebook.



# Friday Panels

**CLE** = pending CLE credits

LS = Knight Law School EMU = Erb Memorial Union

*PANEL ROOM CAPACITY DISCLAIMER:* Please observe room capacity when attending panels. Panels are hosted on a first come, first served basis. Thank you for understanding.

## Friday, Feb 28

### ***Oregon's Drinking Water Crisis***

**Panel 1** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 184

It is becoming abundantly clear that deforestation and climate-related extremes (drought, heat domes, and wildfires) are happening all over without regard for national boundaries. We are living through the earth's climate crisis and we are at a crossroads. Here's a quote from The Oregonian, the largest newspaper in Oregon, dated July 29, 2023, "Scientists have long warned that climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, by deforestation and by certain agricultural practices, will lead to more and prolonged bouts of extreme weather." The work North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection is doing to bring public awareness to these issues by advocating for watershed protection of drinking water sources is most important. In Oregon, our drinking water quality and quantity are also being threatened by climate change, deforestation, and certain agricultural practices. How do we build resilience to these threats? How do we protect our drinking water sources? NCCWP is now exploring the possibility of a 2028 ballot measure to safeguard drinking water in Oregon.

Panelists: *North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection - Nancy Webster, Ernie Neimi, Deke Gundersen & Inanna Hencke*

### ***Genocide = Ecocide: Climate & Environmental Costs & Drivers of the War on Gaza***

**Panel 1** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 142

**Hybrid**

What are the connections between environmental destruction, climate change, and the genocide in Gaza? In addition to the incredible human toll in this region - and increasingly the West Bank, Lebanon, and Iran - there are also devastating impacts on the environment and climate. This panel will investigate this topic to better understand the interconnected harms of mass violence, war-related emissions, the fossil fuel industry, and environmental destruction. Our panelists will follow the flow of oil fueling this violence, examine the destruction of the landscape and how this connects to the loss of the right to food, look at why progressive unions are a leading voice for a permanent ceasefire, and consider the crossover between grassroots climate and human rights activism.

Panelists: *Breach Collective - Michael Fakhri, Allie Rosenbluth, Dylan Plummer, Mica Anton & Gerry Liston*

### ***A State Tipping Strategy for Recognition of Fundamental Climate Rights***

**Panel 1** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 141

**CLE**

On August 14, 2023 in an historic first, Judge Kathy Seeley in the First Judicial District Court of Montana ruled wholly in favor of the 16 young Montanans leading *Held v. State of Montana* – the first ever constitutional climate trial in U.S. history – enshrining into law science-based protections for children's fundamental rights. In June of 2024, Governor Green and Hawai'i Department of Transportation Director Ed Sniffen joined with the 13 youth plaintiffs in *Navahine v. HDOT*, agreeing to settle the case and commit to fully decarbonizing Hawai'i's transportation system - air, land and sea - by 2045. Hear from *Held* Lead Attorney Nate Bellinger and *Navahine* Lead Attorney Andrea Rodgers, as well as Our Children's Trust's Co-Executive Director Mat Dos Santos on how we build a state tipping strategy to create systemic change at the federal level.

Panelists: *Our Children's Trust - David Schwartz, Joanna Zeigler & Mat Dos Santos*

### ***Pursuing the Nation's First Old-Growth Amendment and Shifting the Culture of the US Forest Service***

**Panel 1** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: EMU 119

**CLE**

In December of 2023, the U.S. Forest Service launched a National Old-Growth Amendment (NOGA) process, applying a new old-growth conservation framework to all 128 National Forests Across the country. The comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) wrapped up in September 2024, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was expected in January 2025. This process represents the first time the agency has attempted a National Amendment like this. It uncovered deep cultural fractures and conflicts within a 120 year old agency that now has to contend with a rapidly changing world. This panel will explore these conflicts, the policy implications of the NOGA, and look into future changes the agency will need to make to meet the challenges of our time.

Panelists: *Oregon Wild - Lauren Anderson, Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Garrett Rose & Len Montgomery*

### ***The Fight to Save Oak Flat: Using Litigation to Protect a Sacred Site on Public Lands***

**Panel 1** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: EMU 145

**Hybrid**

**CLE**

Oak Flat is an area within the Tonto National Forest in Arizona that holds tremendous importance to the San Carlos Apache Tribe and other Tribes in the region, as well as providing significant ecological and recreational benefits to the public. This area would be permanently destroyed by a proposed massive copper mine. This panel will provide an overview and update of the many ongoing cases related to the decade-long fight to save Oak Flat. Presently the cases include a petition to the US Supreme Court from the Apache Stronghold under religious protection laws; additional federal cases under NEPA and other environmental laws; and a FOIA case that seeks the appraisal for a related land exchange between the Forest Service and the mining company.

Panelists: *Center for Biological Diversity - Marc Fink, Alexander Ritchie, Wendsler Nosie, Luke Goodrich & Michael Nixon*

### ***Breathing New Life into Pesticide Regulation: 2024 Litigation Updates***

**Panel 1** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 241

**CLE**

Pesticides, originally known as "agricultural poisons," are generally overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). FIFRA oversees the intentional release of toxins into the environment, but unless you took food and agriculture law as a student, you might not have even covered it in any general environmental law class. That's in part because for most of its history, FIFRA—through statutory interpretation and agency regulatory capture—has been largely unprotective of the environment and health. This has slowly began to change incrementally, largely through public interest litigation on behalf of conservationists, farmers, and farmworkers, codifying legal duties and rights, breathing new life into old statutory stones. This panel of expert litigators and advocates will first provide an overview of pesticide regulation history, strengths and shortcomings, juxtaposing its relationship with other environmental laws. It will then dive into discussing pesticide cases "ripped from the headlines" to bring the audience up to date on recent and current pesticide litigation, as well as the battleground ahead. This will include discussion of FIFRA and Endangered Species Act (ESA) interaction/litigation, as well litigation over major agricultural use pesticides including Monsanto's dicamba and roundup, neonicotinoids, endocrine-disrupting pesticides, 2,4-D, atrazine, malathion, and more.

Panelists: *Center for Food Safety - George Kimbrell, Stephanie Parent & Asha Ramakumar*

### ***Rising to the Challenge: NARF's Tribal Water Institute and Advancing Water Justice in Indian Country***

**Panel 1** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 242

**CLE**

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) launched the Tribal Water Institute (TWI) in 2024, creating the first ever project focusing exclusively on Tribal water law and policy. The TWI expands on NARF's 50+ years of Tribal water advocacy and builds Tribal water law expertise by training attorneys in the field, advancing Tribal water policies, increasing Tribal water education, and collaborating with Tribal Nations, governments, NGOs, academic institutions, and other entities to further the water goals of Tribal Nations. This session will discuss the creation of the TWI, TWI attorneys' casework, and insights into Tribal water issues. This session is aimed at practicing attorneys, future attorneys, and others interested in the field of Tribal water law.

Panelists: *Native American Rights Fund - Daniel Cordallis, Ashley Anderson, Melissa Kay & Alice Walker*

### ***Protecting the Environment Through Law in Europe***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: EMU 231

Zuzana Dagmar Kubíková, Legal Assistant, WWF Slovakia, will discuss her research on human-wildlife conflict in Europe. Adrian Chochoł, an environmental lawyer at Frank Bold's Poland office, will discuss advances in Poland to protect air quality.

Panelists: *Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) - Zuzana Dagmar & Adrian Chochol Frank Bold*



# Friday, Feb 28

## ***Next steps in a just clean energy transition: upholding Indigenous rights by reforming mining laws and addressing the need for critical minerals***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 184

As parts of the world are transitioning to cleaner energy sources, there is increased pressure to mine for critical minerals. Unfortunately, the existing laws in many countries, including in the US and Canada, are problematic. They allow the bulk of mining to occur in Indigenous territories, often with little regard for the impacts mining causes to the environment or Indigenous peoples. The focus of this panel will be on how law reform can prioritize and uphold Indigenous rights while responding to the need for society's clean energy transition. This panel will ask: how can mining laws be changed to make sure practices are respectful of Indigenous sovereignty?

Panelists: *Environmental Law Centre Society (UVic) - Patricia Weber, Kiala, People of Red Mountain & Aaron Mintzes*

### ***Food Justice***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 141



This panel explores the intersections of racial, food, and environmental justice arising from government alliances with food and agricultural corporations and the history of the use of food as a tool of subordination.

Panelists: *Southwestern Law School - Andrea Freeman, Ernesto Hernandez Lopez, Lavanya Sathyamurthy, Heliya Izadpanah & Catherine Sweetzer*

### ***Coastal Issues and Environmental Justice***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: EMU 023

Coasts are increasingly becoming popular places to live. However, as the coast is increasing popularity, it is also under greater threat of natural disasters, from sea level rise to hurricanes. This panel will explore the difference between chronic and acute coastal hazards and how the type of hazard informs the efforts to protect communities. This discussion will center around community-driven efforts, drawing on specific projects to showcase real impact.

Panelists: *Dr. Cassandra Davis, Dr. Berseth & Kaia Hazard*

### ***The Right to Hunt: Impacts and Outcomes***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 241



In 2021, several wildlife conservation organizations sued the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and succeeded in stopping the second public wolf hunt planned for that year through litigation. The court relied, in part, on Wisconsin's right to hunt, finding that the right demanded scientifically based stewardship of gray wolves in Wisconsin to ensure the long-term viability of the population for all generations. In 2023, the Mountain Lion Foundation and Western Wildlife Conservancy sued the State of Utah over its adoption of HB 469, which stripped the state wildlife management agency of authority to regular mountain lion hunting in the state. These organizations argued that the constitutional right to hunt in Utah required at least some regulation of mountain lion hunting to preserve the population "for the public good," a direct quote from the Utah iteration of the right to hunt. The trial court dismissed the Utah lawsuit, and the parties appealed. This panel will discuss the right to hunt as both foil and foe, in conservationists' efforts to reform state wildlife management to be more democratic and scientific.

Panelists: *Mountain Lion Foundation - Elizabeth Bennett, Jessica Blome, Kirk Robinson & Susann Bradford (moderator)*

### ***The People's Right to a Healthy Environment***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: EMU 232

**Hybrid**



As recent youth cases in Montana and Hawaii have shown, the intersection of constitutional and environmental law – specifically, an explicit, substantive, and fundamental right to a healthy environment – has the power to make much-needed systemic change for effective environmental protection. In Oregon, such an endeavor to amend the Oregon Constitution is underway.

Panelists: *Dan Meek, Linda Perrine, Melissa Martin, Mat does Santos & Kacy Manahan*

## ***Electrifying Our Communities: The Power of Youth Leaders in Climate Action***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: EMU 104

Across Oregon, grassroots movements are pushing for a clean energy transition in our communities. In many of these electrification campaigns, young people, who will face worsening impacts of climate change throughout their lifetimes, are leading the advocacy. Hear panelists from Eugene, Bend, and Ashland share their experiences of fighting for electrification at the city level. Buildings are the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state after the transportation sector, and panelists will discuss the potential cities have to combat climate change and harmful indoor air pollution through regulatory change on building electrification. Our panelists include a mix of youth and seasoned advocates who will speak to the power of young leaders in Oregon's electrification movement. We will also discuss the many challenges these campaigns face, the successes they have won, and the lessons they've learned as we work to enliven local climate action goals and commitments individually and in tandem across the state.

Panelists: *Fossil Free Eugene - Neil Baunsguard, Brennan Breen, Jack Dodson & Maroun Aguero*

## ***The Earth and Its Community of Life: Elevating Non-Human Animals in Justice, Ethics, and Law through Wilderness Protection***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: EMU 230



Despite Howard Zahniser's exhortation that we see ourselves as "dependent members of an interdependent community of living creatures that together derive their existence from the Sun," a view that echoes some of North America's earliest cultures, today's wilderness stewardship has largely failed to elevate the interests and needs of its non-human inhabitants. Panelists will explore the current philosophical shortcomings in narratives at the heart of the wilderness story and philosophy, and how these shortcomings impact the non-human needs in the administrative, judicial, and legislative realms. The panel will explore how the next 60 years of wilderness management and storytelling can centralize the interests of non-human animals, and will explore potential implications for recreation, research, and other human uses of these special places.

Panelists: *Wilderness Watch - Dan Bister & Mason Parker*

## ***Recent Developments in Alaska Public Lands Law***

**Panel 2** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 242



ANILCA was one of the crowning achievements of President Carter's administration. This law achieved the single greatest expansion of public land protections in the nation's history, establishing numerous national parks, national wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, and other protected areas encompassing 157 million acres across Alaska. The panel will discuss hot topics in the implementation of ANILCA, such as recent BLM decisions concerning the Ambler Road project and D1 Lands that have relied on and strengthened ANILCA's protections for subsistence, fish, and wildlife, as well as a troubling proposal that would enable a road to be constructed across congressionally-designated Wilderness in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and potentially open the floodgates to similar decisions in other protected areas. The panel will also discuss "geographic nexus" issues cropping up under both ANILCA and NEPA in connection with mines and other development proposals where federal agencies have jurisdiction over relatively small portions of the overall project. The panel also plans to discuss longstanding tensions arising from "multiple use" mandates governing federal land management agencies and recent efforts to strengthen the conservation side of the equation.

Panelists: *Trustees for Alaska - Teresa Clemmer, Maile Tavepholijalern & Michelle Sinnott*



Friday, Feb 28

***Protecting Wild Salmon and Orca Recovery through Environmental Law***

**Workshop 1** | 12:00-2:00pm | Room: LS 110



This workshop will explore the significance of environmental litigation in enhancing safeguards and protections for at-risk wild salmon populations within a critical timeframe necessary to avert their extinction. Featured panelists include attorneys and advocates engaged in environmental litigation at both the state and federal levels, concentrating on the preservation and recovery of wild salmon and their ecosystems, with particular attention to endangered Southern Resident killer whales. The workshop will deliver an overview of several prominent lawsuits, encompassing legal strategies, key lessons learned, and the collaborative efforts of these cases in creating a new path forward for the recovery of wild salmon, benefiting both the ecosystems and the communities that rely on them. (Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Washington's State Environmental Policy Act)

Panelists: *Wild Fish Conservancy* - Emma Helverson, Claire Loeb Davis, Conrad Gowell & Emma Bruden

***CAFO Litigation Workshop***

**Workshop 1** | 12:00-2:00pm | Room: EMU 146



CAFO Litigation Workshop - Citizen Suits & Legal Strategies

Panelists: *Public Justice* - Daniel Snyder & Charlie Tebbutt

***Working Remotely: Lessons learned in the fight against the Donlin mine in Alaska***

**Panel 3** | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: LS 242



For the past several years, Earthjustice's Alaska office has represented Tribal clients in multiple lawsuits challenging various authorizations for the Donlin mine project in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region of Alaska. Donlin Gold LLC, owned by the mining giants NovaGold and Barrick Gold Corporation, plans to build the massive open pit mine 10 miles north of the Kuskokwim River and the village of Crooked Creek, next to a salmon spawning stream that flows into the Kuskokwim River. If built, Donlin will be the largest pure gold mine in the world in a critical watershed that Alaska Native people in the region have depended on for thousands of years. The Yukon-Kuskokwim region of Alaska is a vast area that is challenging to access, with no roads into or between communities and infrequent air and water transportation. Residents there are primarily Alaska Native peoples who still overwhelmingly practice a subsistence way of life that is closely tied to the lands and waters and guided by the seasonality of resources. More than a dozen Tribes in the region along with both regional nonprofit Tribal consortia have passed resolutions in opposition to the mine. Earthjustice represents six Yukon-Kuskokwim Tribes in federal and state lawsuits. In addition to access to justice challenges that are faced by Tribes everywhere in the U.S., these Tribes often deal with additional barriers due to their extremely remote locations and the time devoted to subsistence. As their lawyers, Earthjustice attorneys have learned lessons about how to provide representation to clients who are remotely located and have overriding priorities like subsistence activities. While Alaska is unique in its remoteness, we feel that these lessons can be useful in many client contexts, particularly when working with pro bono clients who have many demands on their time.

Panelists: *Earthjustice* - Hannah Payne Foster, Maile Tavepholjalern, Olivia Glasscock, Walter Jim, Jr., Raymond Watson & William Igkurak

***Forests, fire, and fish: how modern wildfires and forestry are pushing wild Pacific salmon to the edge***

**Panel 3** | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: LS 141

This transboundary panel from the U.S. and Canada will examine the intersection of land-use activities (i.e., clear-cut logging, salvage logging, water extraction), and climate change, and identify how these cumulative effects, and the laws that underpin them, are driving severe wildfire and low stream flows that contribute to declines in wild salmon abundance.

Panelists: *Kristen Walters, Ayuthea LaPier, Ryan Reed, Elizabeth Dunne & Auston Chhor*

***xAI in Memphis: A case study on AI data centers & environmental justice issues***

**Panel 3** | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: LS 142

As technology accelerates with the development of Artificial Intelligence, it's creating huge demands on energy systems nationwide. These demands frequently exacerbate environmental injustices, creating energy and environmental burdens for already-marginalized, frontline communities. Environmental justice (EJ) advocates in Memphis, Tennessee, are fighting for guardrails and transparency around the development of an Elon Musk-owned xAI data center. xAI wanted to move more rapidly than local utility providers could provide the massive amount of power xAI required, so the company quickly set up its own methane gas-fired power plant, worsening smog in a community that already fails to meet minimum federal standards. Even after local EJ advocates raised the issue, local air regulators looked the other way and did not require xAI to get a permit before operating the power plant. EJ advocates continue to raise questions and demand accountability from xAI and all of the local agencies that are enabling the company to profit at the expense of the health and well-being of lower-wealth, predominantly Black Southwest Memphis.

Panelists: *Breach Collective* - Amanda Garcia, KeShaun Pearson, Sarah Houston & LaTrice Adams

***Safeguarding Bird Diversity: Harnessing the Law to Recover Endangered Species***

**Panel 3** | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: LS 241



One of the major ecological challenges of the current era is biodiversity loss. Since 1970, North America alone has lost 3 billion birds. Globally, one in eight bird species are threatened with extinction. This loss is not only tragic for individual birds and species but for human culture and health as well. For example, Hawaiian forest birds, such as 'i'iwi, are deeply connected to Hawaiian culture. The birds are currently declining due to avian malaria transmitted by nonnative mosquitoes. Efforts to halt the decline of Hawaiian forest birds is thus more than just an ecological project. Similarly, Marbled Murrelet is an iconic West Coast species. The old-growth forests where this species nests support large amounts of biodiversity and act as carbon sinks. Protecting this small seabird from increased predation at nest sites is crucial for ensuring its long term survival, and helps protect other species in the same habitat. Finally, Least Bell's Vireo helps control pests near agricultural land. The use of pesticides, however, is contributing to the loss of the species, leading to more reliance on dangerous chemicals. Panelists—Lindsay Adrean, Northwest Program Officer; Annie Chester, Policy Director; and Hardy Kern, Director of Government Relations, Birds and Pesticides Campaign—all work for American Bird Conservancy. They will be drawing directly from their work to detail how laws, namely the Endangered Species Act, as well as Migratory Bird Treaty Act and others, aid and complicate recovery of threatened and endangered birds.

Panelists: *American Bird Conservancy* - Annie Chester, Lindsay Adrean & Hardy Kern

***Rumble On The River: Nukes Across The Columbia? SMNRs in Washington to Power Oregon's Data Centers***

**Panel 3** | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: LS 184

This panel will address the Big Tech surge to develop small modular nuclear reactors to meet the voracious energy demands of data centers, AI, crypto-currencies and cloud computing. The plan: build SMNRs in the Hanford vicinity of Washington to power data centers in Oregon. This would handily circumvent the 1980 voter-mandated law which bars new nuclear plant construction within Oregon without a voter reversal and the establishment of a federally licensed waste repository. Discussion will delve into the plan, treaty rights, economic and safety issues associated with SMNRs and rationality of feeding AI's extreme energy appetite. Since 2022, Rumble On The River has presented fifteen free community forums in neighborhoods throughout Portland—and two at PIELC, "Riled Up Over the CEI Hub & Zenith Energy in 2023" and "Renewable Diesel: Boon Or Boondoggle?" in 2024. The Rumble focus has been the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub. Rumbles bring together expert voices to lay out the potential hazards of having 90% of Oregon's fuel and a mix of toxics stored within Portland's city limits on a seismic liquefaction zone. Other forum topics have included Columbia & Willamette River ecosystems, false climate solutions to climate disruption, transportation, urban forestry, shade equity, risk-bonding, nuclear energy and salmon restoration. Over 40 social justice, environmental, faith-based and neighborhood organizations co-sponsor Rumbles by supporting outreach efforts and tabling their materials at each forum.

Panelists: *Retired Public School Educator* - Kelly Campbell, Damon Motz-Storey, Simone Anter, Cathy Sampson-Kruse & Barbara Bernstein (moderator)



# Friday, Feb 28

## Reforming Rodenticides: Can the law and science reduce the threat from rat poisons?

Panel 3 | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: LS 243 CLE

The panel will discuss the background on rodenticides, advances in the legislature, courts, and EPA to reduce threats, and further steps needed to protect wildlife, children, and pets.

Panelists: Center for Biological Diversity - Jonathan Evans, Lisa Owens Viani, Dr. Rebecca Gooley & J.P. Rose

## Take under ESA Section 9 and How to Prove It

Panel 3 | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: LS 175 CLE

The panel will discuss statutory and regulatory provisions related to take under the ESA; address evidentiary issues and hurdles; and focus on recent cases related to salmon, grizzlies and wolves, and western snowy plovers.

Panelists: Western Environmental Law Center - Pete Frost, Zeynep Graves & Shiloh Hernandez

## Anti-Deforestation Avocados: A Campaign to Protect Monarch Butterflies and Human Communities Using Laws and Consumer Pressure

Panel 3 | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: EMU 104 CLE

Following an investigative report linking U.S. avocado imports to illegal deforestation in Mexico, the Center for Biological Diversity launched a multi-faceted campaign to protect the migratory monarch butterfly's overwintering habitat. Protected under the Endangered Species Act at the end of 2024, the monarch population is at the second lowest level ever recorded. Avocado production for import to the United States is the leading threat to the integrity of the International Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve due to clearcuts, fires, water theft, pesticides, and climate impacts. The multi-tiered campaign includes leveraging consumer pressure on grocery chains and importers, and pushing U.S. agencies to leverage existing laws and treaties to abate forest loss. The U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates avocado imports under the Plant Protection Act and its marketing arm actively promotes Mexican avocados to U.S. consumers despite the fruit's clear ties to deforestation and human rights violations. Citing pressure from NGOs, one Mexican state has initiated an environmental compliance certification program. We are now urging the U.S. State Department and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to undertake a certification program that would align with pledges to end deforestation associated with production of agricultural commodities.

Panelists: Center for Biological Diversity - Tierra Curry, Tanya Sanerib, Stephanie Felds & Lori Ann Burd

## Defending Orgs & Activists from SLAPPs and 3rd party shenanigans

Panel 3 | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: EMU 231 CLE

SLAPP suits (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) and other forms of Lawfare are on the rise and are targeting activists, organizations and their lawyers and funders. Corporate bullies abuse the legal system by trying to drag in non-defendant orgs and individuals to their abusive, frivolous lawsuits. This panel will discuss how lawyers need to step up and help litigate this trash, but also how targets can armor themselves better against these attacks.

Panelists: Civil Liberties Defense Center - Lauren Regan, Marianne Dugan & Julia Grix

## What's next for public lands in Oregon? Exploring the threats and opportunities for Oregon's iconic landscapes

Panel 3 | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: EMU 232

In the last Congress, major steps were taken towards permanently protecting some of Oregon's most iconic public lands. Historic bills were introduced into Congress that would have expanded protections for the Owyhee Canyonlands, Wild Rogue Wilderness, and waterways throughout Oregon that provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean drinking water, and outdoor recreation opportunities. Local activists built state and nationwide campaigns to draw recognition to these incredible landscapes and the threats they faced.

Panelists: Oregon Wild - Sami Godlove, Mark Salvo, Michael Dotson & Emily Cain

## Fukushima Now: Contamination and our Waterways

Panel 3 | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: EMU 119 Hybrid

This is an opportunity to learn about the impact of global radiation contamination as experienced by frontline communities along the Columbia River and Pacific Rim countries like Japan that are the most impacted.

Panelists: Community Activist and Organizer - Rachel DiNitto, Michael C. Dreiling, Mari Inoue & Laura Feldman (moderator)

## Creating Tribal Relationships Through Yellowstone Bison

Panel 3 | 1:30-3:00pm | Room: EMU 145 CLE

Representatives from several Tribes will discuss how transfer of Yellowstone Bison to their homelands is helping to create relationships amongst the tribes and non-indigenous communities.

Panelists: Cottonwood Environmental Law Center - Darrell Hall, Gerald Wagner, Jason Belcourt, Yvonne Stanley & Alvin Fritzler

Keynote 1 - Tara Houska  
3:30-5:30 p.m. - EMU Ballroom  
details on pg.10



# Saturday Panels

**CLE** = pending CLE credits

LS = Knight Law School EMU = Erb Memorial Union

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## ***Closing the Gap Between Science and Policy: Threats and Solutions to Southern Resident Orcas and Chinook salmon***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: LS 184

This panel will consist of scientists from the United States and Canada dedicated to promoting sustainable strategies for the recovery of the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) and Chinook salmon through a combination of scientific research and policy development. The panelists will present a scientific overview of the significant threats facing the SRKW population, as well as the coastwide challenges affecting their primary prey—Chinook salmon. Additionally, the panel will examine the existing policy strategies currently in place in both the U.S. and Canada and highlight how these approaches often conflict with the best available scientific evidence. Panelists will engage in a discussion regarding the barriers to implementing science-based solutions and propose strategies necessary to halt the decline of these species and initiate their recovery, emphasizing approaches that align with the public trust doctrine and the rights of nature.

Panelists: *Wild Fish Conservancy* - Dr. Deborah Giles, Nick Gayeski, Emma Helverson & Misty MacDuffee

## ***The Thin Green Line 2.0: Community Impacts and Resistance to the West Coast Biomass Export Proposals***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: LS 141

Over the last two decades, community opposition has successfully halted numerous proposed fossil fuel export projects along the West Coast of North America. These projects aimed to sell & export coal, oil and fracked gas to Asian countries, and would have expanded fossil fuel extraction across western North America. These grassroots campaigns collectively became known as the “Thin Green Line”. They were rooted in and led by local communities, yet mobilized regional networks and support and largely succeeded in preventing these fossil fuel export projects from being built, keeping millions of tons of climate-destabilizing carbon in the ground at least for now. Now, a new wave of energy export proposals along the West Coast again threatens local communities, regional ecosystems, and our collective climate. As more countries look for easy ways to—at least on paper—reduce their carbon emissions, we see a sudden proliferation of biomass pellet plant export proposals, which look to turn West Coast forests into wood pellets and ship them overseas to be burned for electricity generation. Like the proposed fossil fuel export projects before them, these biomass export facilities would be sited in marginalized communities that are already overburdened with industrial pollution. And like the failed fossil fuel export projects, the use of industrial wood pellet export facilities would mark a tremendous blow to efforts to maintain a livable climate. As local concerns about the impacts of these biomass proposals grows, and questions about the sustainability of biomass draw more careful scrutiny, a new “Thin Green Line 2.0” is beginning to take shape. This panel will examine how biomass energy has been erroneously classified as “clean” energy; the biomass industry’s devastating impacts on frontline communities, forests and the climate; the current state of proposed biomass export projects along the Pacific coast; and how communities and advocates can draw on the successes and lessons learned from the efforts to prevent fossil fuel exports to limit the damage of this new extractive energy export push by industry.

Panelists: *Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance* -Nick Joslin, Rita Vaughan Frost, Tegan Hansen, Gloria Alonso & Gary Hughes

## ***Pacific Western Wolves in the Crosshairs: Politics, Poaching and (Poor) Protections***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: LS 142

**CLE**

Wolves in the western U.S. are subject to a patchwork of protections based on arbitrary political boundaries - not science - because of congressional actions and legal decisions. While California’s population is increasing at an encouraging rate, Oregon’s wolf population has entirely stagnated and Washington’s report of an annual increase is suspect. Poaching is an increasingly serious problem in western states, and the odd split of federal and state authority complicates investigations and enforcement of anti-poaching laws. We’ll discuss the legal status of wolves in Oregon, Washington and California, the state of the science on coexistence between wolves, humans and their livestock, and the challenges of confronting agency decisions not grounded in the best available science.

Panelists: *Cascadia Wildlands* - Amaroq Weiss, Danielle Moser, Bethany Cotton & Dr. Francisco Santiago-Avila

## ***Slaying the Waste Giants: Tackling Incinerators and Landfills***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: EMU 104

**Hybrid**

Incinerators and Landfills are two large-looming infrastructures in the waste management system. Each presents unique, but similar, environmental justice challenges. This panel offers an overview on current developments for Oregon’s only incinerator, Reworld Marion, and the many landfills dotting the state. Panelists include local residents and non profit staff from Oregon and U.S. based organizations. The panel will cover several policy developments/ strategies to problems posed by the waste giants, some of which are currently going through the Oregon Legislature.

Panelists: *Beyond Toxics* - Kathryn Blauvelt, Mason Leavitt, Mark Yeager & Mike Ewall

## ***Water, Justice, and the State of Oregon***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: LS 241

With Oregon making significant but long overdue, changes to its outdated water allocation policies, members of the Oregon Water Justice Alliance will discuss recent improvements to the Oregon Water Resource Department’s groundwater rules, the Oregon Water Law 'modernization' process underway in the state legislature, and the impact of these changes on Tribal and other water justice communities, ecosystems, and Oregon’s future.

Panelists: *Water Climate Trust* - Ashia Wilson, Christopher Hall & Stephanie Tidwell

## ***The Toll of Urban Freeways on Vulnerable Communities***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: LS 242

This panel explores the intersection of environmental justice and urban infrastructure, focusing on how freeway and highway systems in California and the Pacific Northwest disproportionately impact underrepresented communities. Panelists will discuss the historical policies that have entrenched environmental racism, the health and social consequences of living near high-traffic areas, and the pathways to advocacy and policy reform. This session aims to amplify community voices, examine legal strategies, and inspire collaborative solutions to protect vulnerable populations and advance equity in urban planning.

Panelists: *Dean Wallraff, Seth Goldman & Indi Namkoong*

## ***Tribal Inclusion Needs Fire Inclusion in the Northwest Forest Plan***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: LS 243

The Northwest Forest Plan ended the Timber Wars thirty years ago, but it did not end all wars in the national forests. Not only is the U.S. Forest Service continuing its century-long war against wildfire with escalating firefighting fury despite decreasing effectiveness due to climate change. But the U.S. Forest Service’s fire exclusion philosophy essentially represents a continuation of the wars of settler-colonialism that forcibly displaced Native peoples from their homelands and criminalized their use of fire to steward habitats, cultural resources, and sacred sites. The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment offers a unique opportunity to end the agency’s forever war against fire and replace their colonialist fire exclusion and wildfire suppression policies with ecological fire management strategies centered on revitalizing Indigenous eco-cultural burning, increasing the pace and scale of prescribed burning, and managing wildfires for resource benefits. This panel will feature Indigenous fire practitioners, fire ecologists, and wildland firefighters discussing how conservationists can help end the Fire Wars through the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment.

Panelists: *Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)* - Timothy Ingalsbee, Angele Sondenaa & Sarah D. Wald

## ***Greenwashing on the Columbia River: Stopping the NEXT Refinery***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: EMU 230

**CLE**

A company called NEXT wants to build a massive "renewable" diesel refinery on the Columbia River. It’s a dirty deal for climate, salmon, and local farmers. Come learn from 4 attorneys about the legal and grassroots tactics used to fight the refinery’s development at the local, state, and federal levels.

Panelists: *Columbia Riverkeeper* -Audrey Leonard, Mary Stites, Andrew Missel & Eric Wriston



## ***Can Environmental Law Deliver on its Promise to Vulnerable People***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: EMU 231

**Hybrid**

This panel offers a critical exploration of the potential and limitations of environmental law in advancing justice for vulnerable populations. Key areas of focus include the equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies, the recognition of intellectual property rights in the Global South, the pursuit of environmental justice for marginalized, Indigenous, and minority communities, and the role of international law in safeguarding these interests. Each panelist brings a unique perspective, grounded in their individual research focus, to shed light on these pressing issues.

Panelists: *Peter Allard Law School University of British Columbia - Sopuruchi Godsfriend Christian, Chinenye Eze, Oludamilola Adejumo & Kirtika Kattel*

## ***Legal Labor for a Livable World***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: EMU 232

As the climate crisis continues to unfold, legal professionals can no longer hide from the impact of their work supporting the fossil fuel industry. Big Law firms facilitate billions in fossil fuel transactions, litigate on the industry's behalf, and in some cases, also lobby for fossil fuel interests. While there are many attempts to incrementally shift the legal profession, they often focus on in-office sustainability, while 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 this cultural shift is vital for building a world compatible with human life in the long term.

Panelists: *Law Students for Climate Accountability - Kelsey Dunn, Michaela Anang, Nick Caleb & Ca'sha Bernard*

## ***PB&J: Pinyon Pine, Biodiversity, and Juniper Conservation***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: EMU 119

**CLE**

Pinyon and juniper woodlands are an important ecological community in the west that provide a number of ecosystem services. However, land management agencies have typically treated them without considering the need to maintain or even restore these woodlands. This panel will address pinyon and juniper management in the context of conservation lands, tribal knowledge, old-growth concerns, and scientific support (or lack thereof) for agency removal and restoration actions. The panel will discuss common conflicts in pinyon juniper management, such as sage grouse vs. pinyon jays, old-growth vs. post-settlement woodlands, and native wildlife vs. domestic livestock.

Panelists: *Western Watersheds Project - Andy Kerr, Kya Marienfeld, Scott Lake & Laura Cunningham*

## ***Nutrient Pollution: Strategies for Defending Our Ecosystems and Communities***

**Panel 4** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: EMU 145

**CLE**

Nutrient pollution, made worse by climate change, affects where biodiversity can and cannot thrive. It is harming the United States' most imperiled aquatic plants and animals and as temperatures rise, precipitation events increase, and urban sprawl dominates coastal landscapes, nutrient pollution will become more dire. This panel will illustrate, using specific cases and species, how nutrient pollution threatens vulnerable biodiversity. Practitioners will share advocacy and litigation strategies to address nutrient pollution at state and federal levels, including litigation, petitioning, and legislation. Panelists will discuss strategies and stories stemming from campaigns targeting diverse issues including harmful algal blooms, nitrogen pollution, and CAFOs. Panelists will examine what has worked and not worked, what's left to be tried, and other best practices.

Panelists: *Center for Biological Diversity - Jaclyn Lopez, Jon Mueller, Ryan Smart & Dan Snyder*

## ***FOIA: Don't be afraid of the F\*\*\* Word***

**Workshop 2** | 8:30-10:30am | Room: LS 110

**CLE**

Panelists will explain how to use FOIA (the Freedom of Information Act) to build a record of an agency's failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act and other regulation, what you need to know about an agency's duty to search for records, how to push back on claims of exemptions, and how to ensure you can recover fees when you win.

Panelists: *Western Watersheds Project - Cyndi Tuell, Pete Sorenson & Tom Housel*

## ***Reimagining Equity in a post-Chevron Era***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: LS 241

**CLE**

Lately, the U.S. Supreme Court has been upending federal law, including in the blockbuster Loper Bright case that overturned Chevron deference, and in Corner Post, which discarded the statute of limitations for Administrative Procedure Act challenges. Taken as a whole, the Court's recent jurisprudence has thrust environmental and administrative law into uncharted territory, with major implications for the future of environmental protection and equity. These developments raise urgent questions about what the absence of Chevron deference will mean for environmental protection and environmental justice. To help reimagine a future with robust environmental protection that aligns with long-standing statutory goals and achieves the nation's equity objectives, this panel of experts from the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) will discuss the numerous implications of recent Supreme Court developments for federal agencies, Congress, and the judiciary. We will chart the ripple effects that are already percolating up from lower courts, and offer practical examples of how litigants and judges are applying Loper Bright and related doctrines to preserve environmental protections. Given this turbulence at the federal level, the panel will also explore state-level tools and pathways for achieving environmental justice and equity.

Panelists: *Environmental Law Institute - Jarryd Page, Leah Fattor & Margaret Von Rotz*

## ***Taking Factory Farm Water Pollution to Court***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: LS 184

**CLE**

Factory farms, also known as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), are one of the largest sources of water pollution in the U.S. These facilities and their waste disproportionately impact environmental justice communities, and this impact is growing as factory farms grow larger and more concentrated. Yet 50+ years after enactment of the Clean Water Act, most of these industrial-scale polluters remain un- or under-regulated. This panel will discuss a slate of litigation tackling this longstanding problem - including two cases that have won a "detailed study" of CAFO pollution and an Animal Agriculture and Water Quality Federal Advisory Committee Subcommittee, and several others aimed at requiring representative pollution monitoring in permits that will enable advocates to hold CAFOs accountable - as well as how advocates use such monitoring data for citizen enforcement.

Panelists: *Food & Water Watch - Tarah Heinzen, Emily Miller, Dani Replogle & Dan Snyder*

## ***A just world is possible: Oregon leaders respond to the 2024 Election***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: LS 142

Oregon environmental justice, climate, conservation, and elected leaders adjust their plans and priorities to the realm of the possible in response to the 2024 General Election. Join us for a facilitated question and answer as we learn about success and barriers to achieving a more just world.

Panelists: *Oregon Wild - Kristin Ostrom Anderson, Damon Motz-Storey, Jana Gastellum, Courtney Neron & Brian Smith*

## ***Blazing the Trail: How Youth Leadership is Transforming Wildfire Management***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: LS 281

As environmental challenges grow more urgent, the call for inclusive, justice-driven solutions has never been louder. "Blazing the Trail" offers a deep dive into how youth workforce development programs are rising to meet these challenges while promoting social and environmental justice. This talk will explore how empowering young adults to become environmental stewards directly addresses some of the root causes of injustice in wildfire management and environmental degradation. Having progressed from crew members to supervisors, to beyond these young leaders have navigated the complexities of wildfire management while simultaneously building community resilience. Their experience reflects how environmental efforts must intersect with social justice, creating a more inclusive, diverse response to the pressing challenges we face today. In this session, attendees will hear how the experience in these programs has impacted the panelists' personal and professional growth, instilling a strong sense of justice and ecological stewardship. It will focus on how important it is to provide opportunities for young professionals experience exposure to systemic issues, such as access to equitable workforce opportunities and the disparate impacts of wildfires on marginalized communities. This talk is particularly relevant for those interested in how workforce development can be an engine for both environmental progress and social equity.

Panelists: *ECO System Solutions - Alejandro Mejia, Jozie Donaghey, Keiran Hadley, Gunnar Knost & Alicia Rabideau*



# Saturday, March 1

## ***Orphans, Zombies, Strippers, and Deadbeats: Abandonment Issues in the Oil & Gas Industry***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: LS 243



Across the U.S., there are an estimated 2 million unplugged on- and offshore oil and gas wells. Some are spewing methane, others are poisoning groundwater. Many of these “zombie wells” are also orphaned—meaning there is no solvent operator to pay to for decommissioning, often because regulators have allowed the majors to transfer stripper wells—those nearing the end of their productive lives—to companies that lack the resources to properly decommission them. And the issue is not limited to wells—hundreds of idle platforms and thousands of miles of old pipelines litter our oceans, numbers that are expected to grow as more oil and gas projects near the end of production. This panel will explore the emerging and increasingly urgent legal efforts to force industry deadbeats to clean up their messes and will highlight the unique opportunities and challenges presented in both on- and offshore contexts.

Panelists: *Center for Biological Diversity* - Rachel Mathews, Amanda Demmerle, Camille Sippel & Martin Lockman

## ***Stop Extinction: A Look At Global, National, and Local Solutions To Combat The Biodiversity Crisis***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: LS 242

We are in the midst of a global extinction crisis. Recent analyses estimate that nearly 1/3rd of all plants and animals in the United States are at an elevated risk of extinction. These profound impacts affect the health and well-being of our communities, which depend on the diversity and abundance of wildlife and their habitat. Combating the extinction crisis and protecting biodiversity requires implementing solutions at the local, regional, and national levels.

Panelists: *Oregon Wild* - Danielle Moser, Sarina Jepsen & Jane Bacchieri

## ***Navigating the Backlash Against DEI: What it means for the enviornmental movement***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: EMU 023



Attacks on DEI have escalated this year, with Executive Orders and memoranda targeting DEI initiatives, staff, programs, contractors, and more. These attacks are a continuation of a legal and political assault on DEI in the wake of the 2023 Supreme Court decision striking down university affirmative action policies. The sands keep shifting under our feet, but at this point, we know that executive orders, legislation, and litigation will continue to be tools that are used at various levels to strike down DEI initiatives in the public, nonprofit, and even private sector. Join a panel of DEI leaders, environmental leaders, and legal experts for valuable insights on the source of this backlash, what it means for the environmental movement, and strategies to navigate the backlash and continue to prioritize important equity initiatives.

Panelists: *The Avarna Group* - Aparna Rajagopal, Cathy Albisa, Leslie Hinkson & Chris Tavenor

## ***Indigenous-Led Resistance to False Climate Solutions: Resisting Green Colonialism for Real Solution to Climate Crisis***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: EMU 232



Indigenous communities and advocates on the frontlines of the climate crisis have for decades raised demands for a Just Transition that leaves no community behind and addresses the structural inequalities and injustices at the root of the climate and biodiversity crises. Instead, corporations, governments and institutions are increasingly focused on climate “solutions” that reproduce the same harms and injustices that have created these crises; a new Green Colonialism. In the US and around the world, public financing incentives have helped fuel a rapid proliferation of proposals for carbon markets & offsets, hydrogen fuels, biomass energy, carbon capture and storage, carbon removal technologies and geoengineering, with the full weight of corporate public relations & marketing behind them. The surge of these false solutions underwritten by the desire for simple & easy solutions to the complexity of the climate & ecological crises, necessitates robust regional collaboration and strategies to address these proposals. Beyond just failing to reduce emissions, these false solutions and Green Colonialism can help us to ask much-needed questions about who a Green Transition is for, who will be sacrificed on its behalf, and where the root causes of the current climate & ecological crises lay. While there is a need for dramatic technical changes in how energy is produced and consumed, those on the frontlines of false climate solutions highlight that real solutions require more than just reducing emissions and developing new technologies, but more fundamental transformations. This panel will examine how the fossil fuel and other extractive industries use false climate solutions to preserve their power & profit, the motivations behind these initiatives and their connections to international agendas including the Montreal Accord and Paris Agreement. Speakers will share stories from indigenous led campaigns pushing back against the Thacker Pass Lithium Mine in Nevada and the Fountain Wind project in northern California, the growing grassroots opposition to forest biomass energy, and discuss how advocates & communities are creating new alliances and coalitions to stop false climate solutions and advance just and sustainable future for all.

Panelists: *Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance* - Thomas Joseph, Julia Bernal, Chanda Callao, Radley Davis & Alex Budd

## ***Grazed to Death: Livestock Production Adversely Modifying Critical Habitat on Public Lands***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: EMU 230



A summary of threats involving and work protecting endangered species & resulting removal of damaging livestock from millions of public acres in the Southwest, Pacific Northwest, Mountain West and California.

Panelists: *Center for Biological Diversity* - Taylor McKimmon, Laurie Rule & Tara Zuardo

## ***Justice Delayed is Justice Denied: FEMA's Failure to Implement the National Flood Insurance Program in Oregon in Accordance with the ESA***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: EMU 104



Fifteen years ago, conservation organizations, including the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, sued FEMA over the agency’s failure, in violation of Section 7 of the ESA, to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (“NMFS”) on the impacts of FEMA’s implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”) in Oregon on ESA-listed, floodplain-dependent species. Audubon Soc’y of Portland v. Fed. Emergency Mgmt. Agency, Case No. 3:09-cv-729-HA (D. Or. 2010). This resulted in a biological opinion in 2016 finding that FEMA’s implementation of the NFIP in Oregon jeopardizes the survival and recovery of fifteen salmonid species, southern eulachons, and salmonid-dependent orcas, and destroys or adversely modifies the critical habitat of the fish species. Such jeopardy opinions are exceedingly rare, being issued in fewer than 1 out of every 3,000 consultations, underlying the gravity of the situation. The biological opinion set forth a path for FEMA to implement the NFIP in such a way to avoid this outcome, with specific deadlines for implementation. But now, over eight years later, FEMA has yet to implement NMFS’s recommendations. Instead, they’re proposing an approach that will continue to jeopardize Oregon’s imperiled salmonids while allowing irresponsible floodplain development to continue. This does not serve the environment or the people who live within Oregon’s floodplains. The panelists will discuss the ongoing litigation, its challenges, and why responsible floodplain regulation is both good for people and the environment.

Panelists: *Center for Biological Diversity* - Mary Stites & Dan Rohlf

## ***Will Climate Refugees Be Well-Received?***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: EMU 231



Federal environmental policy responses must be nimble to quickly respond and keep pace with a rapidly changing climate. Yet a feature – rather than a bug – of federal environmental law has always been the bureaucratic hurdles that make policy difficult to change. While this can ensure that changes to administrative regulation are reasonable and deliberate, it can also lead to arduous processes that cause significant delays in changing rules, even when circumstances change rapidly. Take federal forestlands as one example. With beetle kill causing mass die-off’s of timber in record amounts, some rules should be loosened to allow fuel reduction to take place more rapidly in these forests to avoid catastrophic fire later. This panel seeks to discuss areas of federal environmental administrative law where such loosening and nimbleness are warranted to avoid the most cataclysmic impacts of climate change on our nation’s resources.

Panelists: *Stetson Law School* - Michele Okoh, Anna Long & Fernando Munoz

## ***Re-Wilding Salmon: Co-Partnership with NOAA, CA Fish and Wildlife and Winnemem Wintu Tribe to restore Salmon runs on the McCloud Above the Dam***

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: Many Nations Longhouse

It’s been twenty years since Chief Caleen Sisk, Winnemem Wintu began advocating to bring the McCloud River Salmon back from New Zealand to their home waters. On May 1, 2023, Chief Sisk signed an historic agreement with the California Fish and Wildlife and NOAA hatchery to allow the federal and state entities to bring their diminishing hatchery fish up into the high mountain waters. In return, Chief Sisk secured their agreement to help her bring her Nur back from New Zealand to the McCloud River as well as support a study for building a Volitional Passage around Shasta Dam for the Nur to swim all the way unassisted to the Sacramento River.

Panelists: *Winnemem Wintu Tribe* - Chief Caleen Sisk, Rebekah Olstad, Marine Sisk & Daniel Cordallis



## **Apache Stronghold v. US: Context, Contours, and Current Status**

**Panel 5** | 10:15-11:45am | Room: EMU 145 **Hybrid** **CLE**

The Native Environmental Sovereignty Project (NESP) is one of seven thematic interdisciplinary research projects housed within the University of Oregon's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center. NESP is currently staffed by three law student Fellows, Kiyava Deville, Oprah Jerome, and Alex Shadle, led by Professor Howard Arnett, with support from Madi Prue and Heather Brinton. In the 2024-2025 academic year, NESP is focusing its research and outreach on Apache Stronghold v. United States, perhaps the most consequential Indian Law case unfolding in the U.S. right now. Currently pending the Supreme Court's acceptance of certiorari, Apache Stronghold involves a copper company's (Resolution Copper) efforts to develop a massive pit mine in Oak Flat, a place currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service and, more importantly, a place that is sacred to many Indigenous peoples in the area and Western Apache peoples in particular. Oak Flat is the only place in the world where Apache peoples can conduct the Sunrise Ceremony, a vital coming of age ceremony for young Apache women. Its destruction is guaranteed if Resolution Copper's interests win out. This case poses a huge threat to religious freedoms, Indigenous cultures, and the environment. And the implications for sacred sites all over are daunting. This case needs to be on advocates' radar. And our communities must be prepared to respond.

Panelists: *University of Oregon School of Law, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center - Howard Arnett, Wendsler Nosie, Luke Goodrich & Michael Nixon*

## **Ethical PIEL Lawyering**

**Workshop 3** | 3:30-5:30pm | Room: LS 175 **CLE**

Public interest lawyers hold a special and often difficult place in both the bar and in issue movements. While most all lawyers grapple with legal and ethical professional responsibility considerations, this workshop facilitates an exploration of top ethical concerns and scenarios in public interest environmental lawyering. The workshop will guide the attendees in identify and working through these ethical issues in the context of the model rules of professional responsibility and through the lens of cultural humility. The workshop will encourage small group work to facilitate drawing upon each other's experiences and perspectives while working through the model rules and hypotheticals. The workshop will encourage sharing out best practices and will deepen knowledge on the ethical considerations of public interest environmental lawyering.

Panelists: *Stetson - Carmen johnson, Prof. Jaclyn Lopez & Prof. Michele Okoh*

## **Revolutionizing Wildlife Governance for Environmental and Social Justice**

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: EMU 119 **Hybrid**

In traditional wildlife governance, state policies have often marginalized local communities, excluded diverse voices, and prioritized narrow interests, leaving pressing ecological and social justice issues unresolved. This session will demonstrate how an inclusive, community-centered approach in wildlife governance can not only enhance conservation outcomes but also address systemic environmental injustices. By promoting a governance model that respects the values and rights of all communities—particularly those historically excluded from decision-making—our panel seeks to offer a transformative path for wildlife management. We aim to spark meaningful dialogue on how equity in policy-making can restore ecosystems and inspire lasting commitments to justice-driven environmental protection. This paradigm shift in wildlife governance recognizes the interconnectedness of social justice and ecological integrity, offering an essential, long-overdue course correction for the challenges on our collective horizon. Session Abstract: The Revolutionizing Wildlife Governance session will engage participants in reimagining state-level wildlife policy as a tool for advancing both biodiversity and social justice. Our expert panelists will explore the impact of excluding marginalized voices from wildlife governance and offer strategies to establish a more inclusive conservation framework that integrates the needs of diverse communities with sustainable, science-based conservation practices. Drawing on case studies and emerging research, the session will discuss the benefits of community-led conservation initiatives, highlight successful legislative reforms, and share approaches for broadening public participation in wildlife decision-making. This panel will include perspectives from Indigenous leaders, community organizers, policy advocates, and scientists, each bringing unique insights into how to realign conservation priorities with principles of environmental justice. Attendees will gain actionable strategies for advocating for just, inclusive wildlife policies in their own communities and beyond. By fostering a governance model that embraces diverse perspectives, this session will illuminate a path toward a more equitable and effective approach to wildlife conservation—one that rises to the challenges of today while protecting justice on the horizon.

Panelists: *Wildlife for All - Michelle Lute, Jazmin "Sunny" Murphy, Kavya Parsa, Jennifer Calkins & Angie Vega*

## **NEPA: Where Are We Now and Where Can We Head in Our Communities and the Courts?**

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: LS 184 **Hybrid** **CLE**

On November 12, 2024, the D.C. Circuit released an opinion holding that the Council on Environmental Quality lacked rule making authority despite none of the parties raising or briefing in this question. Nonetheless, the court determined that a separation of powers question existed and took this lawfulness of CEQ's rulemaking authority under consideration ultra vires. CEQ regulations have been an integral part of NEPA litigation since the 1970s, and panelists will have to address how broadly this decision impacts all future NEPA litigation, whether federal agencies possess the authority to issue their own NEPA regulations, and how this decision could play out in a changed administration, among other questions.

Panelists: *Western Watersheds Project - Dinah Bear, Travis Stills & Mary O'Brien*

## **"EL-T" – Launching a Law Student Environmental Law-Teaching Practicum at Your Law School**

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: LS 242

This Panel introduces "EL-T"—how to create a special seminar-based Environmental Law-Teaching program at your law school, training selected law students to teach, in pairs, with faculty status, a semester-long undergrad course in environmental law. The panel is particularly relevant now in 2025: undergrads need useful legal-process knowledge to understand on-coming turmoils in environmental law & national governance. The panel encourages law students and faculty to institute the EL-T program at their own law schools; there's a hard-copy how-to-do-it Manual for attendees. EL-T has been offered at six law schools since 1972, giving 300+ law students the experience of teaching a full-semester law course to a total of more than 3500 undergraduates. In Fall, for law school credit, law students are trained to design and teach a Spring semester course to a class of 20- 30 undergraduates, coordinated by a weekly Spring seminar — an extraordinary opportunity for law students to develop a special skill and a unique credential.

Panelists: *Rachel Fischer, Meghan Morgan, Jared Shelton, Katherine Pratt, Kyle Loring, Haley Rowlands, Audrey Timmins & Prof. Zygmunt Plater (moderator)*

## **Climate Change and Economic Growth**

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: EMU 104 **CLE**

One issue we have focused on in our legal work and advocacy is the general failure to account for "transboundary emissions." Cities, counties, and countries generally limit the calculation of their CO2 emissions to those that occur within their geographical boundaries. This often fails to account for emissions that occur beyond their boundaries but are caused by activities within them. This is particularly significant in a tourist-dominated economy like Sonoma County, where we live, along with emissions from the global export of local wines. We won a lawsuit overturning the Sonoma County Climate Action Plan, based in large part on its failure to account for those emissions in the County's GHG Inventory. We plan to discuss the various ways that the attribution of emissions is obfuscated and undercounted, contributing to the prevailing false techno-optimism. We also intend to discuss what a just transition to "ecological economics" could involve, including an expanded public sector to fulfill basic human needs through redistribution. During the COVID shutdown, declines in commuting, industrial production, and air travel led to reduced GHG emissions. How can we promote the acceptance of a socio-economic transformation that normalizes those declines in economic activity while ensuring basic human needs are met—despite the vested interests in the status quo and the persistence of false techno-optimism? Aviva Chomsky, author of *Is Science Enough*, an excellent analytical work advocating for degrowth, has agreed to participate in the panel. Her specific contribution will focus on Latin American and Third World perspectives, examining how current pseudo-environmental policies perpetuate colonial extraction and the colonization of the atmospheric commons. She will also address the question of how "degrowth" is understood from a Third World perspective—namely, that it means degrowth for the overgrown, creating space for the Global South's poor to access their fair share of resources.

Panelists: *Jerry Bernhaut & Aviva Chomsky*

## **It's a Necessity: What campaigners and orgs need to know about the necessity defense**

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: EMU 230 **CLE**

As hurricanes and wildfires pumel the US and beyond, climate activists are upping the stakes and getting hit with more serious charges and punishments. This panel seeks to demystify the necessity/choice of evils/justification defenses and ensure that campaigns have the info they need to line up the defense long before they hit the streets. A discussion of challenges, caselaw, and other preparations necessary to successfully utilize this defense will be discussed.

Panelists: *Civil Liberties Defense Center - Lauren Regan, Ken Ward & Alex Marquardt*



# Saturday, March 1

## ***Keeping Factory Farm Gas Out of Our Energy Systems: Cow Poop Can't Solve the Climate Crisis***

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: LS 141



This panel will discuss the emerging factory farm biogas industry, how it is interacting with our current energy systems and policies, and what types of advocacy are needed to keep this false solution out of climate portfolios. We will explore how to use both traditional and non-traditional environmental law to fight the negative impacts of this growing industry.

Panelists: *Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School - Carra Sahler, Tyler Lobdell, Amy van Saun & Skye Walker*

## ***Forests, Fire and Climate: Unpacking the Myths & False Solutions Endangering Communities, Forests, and Our Climate***

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: LS 142



The increasing severity of wildfires in recent years, both in terms of acres burned as well as structures and lives lost, has become the driving force behind forest management policy through western North America. The stakes and urgency of the wildfire crisis have created a window of opportunity for transformative shifts in management policy, as the public and institutions begin to reckon with the consequences of decades of fire suppression, the sidelining of indigenous management strategies & paradigms, profit-focused extractive timber management, and the accelerating impacts of the climate crisis. But there are no guarantees that the new management strategies and approaches to emerge from this reckoning will necessarily be wiser, or less detrimental to the wellbeing of communities, our climate, or forest ecologies. A rapid proliferation of misinformation about forest- and fire-ecology, climate change & forest carbon cycles, and the promotion of self-interested "solutions" by those looking to maximize private profits threatens to divert limited resources into false solutions that will fail to protect communities from fires, exacerbate carbon emissions and the climate emergency, and further degrade forest ecosystems. Drawing on scientific research and on-the-ground documentation, this panel will unpack common misconceptions about the relationship between forest thinning, wildfire risk & severity, and carbon emissions, critically examine the real-world potential of biomass energy and carbon offset programs to mitigate carbon emissions, and highlight what forest management strategies have proven truly effective and economical for protecting communities, forests, and a livable climate.

Panelists: *Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance - Paula Hood, Rita Vaughan Frost & Alex Budd*

## ***Environmental Justice Litigation Without Environmental Justice Legislation***

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: LS 241



For over two years, community members and community groups organized to campaign against the siting of a 37-bay freight warehouse in one of the most diverse communities in Portland. The City of Portland issued a building permit for the warehouse, which advocates challenged at the Land Use Board of Appeals. *Friends of Oregon v. City of Portland, Or LUBA (LUBA No. 2023-088, Sep. 24, 2024)*. After extensive briefing highlighting the community's existing exposure to high levels of diesel pollution, high-crash corridors, and other environmental health burdens, the building permit was affirmed in a rather unconventional LUBA opinion. However, new policy rose from the ashes of the litigation "loss": advocates are now pushing for further reform in Oregon's unique land use system to prevent this situation from occurring again by codifying explicit standards to protect frontline communities, thereby elevating enforceable standards to ensure land use decisions do not come at the expense of public health, environmental conservation, and the long-term prosperity of communities. The effort around this warehouse has spurred a full court press that focuses on the immediate warehouse, as well as the systematic issues that facilitate a land use system which perpetuates hazardous siting in already environmentally overburdened communities. Advocates from both legs of this strategy will discuss the complexities, limitations, and opportunities to codify standards—through legislation and case law—and development of paths to use Oregon's land use system to amplify and advance grassroots efforts to oppose harmful industry development.

Panelists: *Crag Law Center - Rebeka Dawit, Eric Wriston, Mary Stites & Mary Peveto*

## ***Protecting Heir's Property as Environmental Justice Work***

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: LS 243



Heirs' property is property owned as tenants in common, usually because it was inherited after intestate succession. It is found predominantly in disadvantaged communities, particularly Native American and communities of color. This panel will explore how law students and lawyers can work to protect heirs' property from "heirs' hunters" who seek to dispossess people of their land. It will also explore how heirs' property has been a creative response to navigating unjust and predatory legal systems found across the United States.

Panelists: *Wake Forest School of Law - Scott Schang, Tia Ebarb Matt, Genevieve Hebert-Fajardo & Jada Williams*

## ***Controlling Nutrient Pollution Pursuant to the Clean Water Act: If the Need is Urgent, Why are Agencies Slow-Walking a Response?***

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: EMU 232



The U.S. EPA and States branded widespread nutrient pollution a water quality problem needing "urgent" action in 2009. This panel will discuss why and how—in light of this urgent need—these agencies are slow-walking a regulatory response and the state of litigation efforts—including successes and set-backs—to force change. Nutrient pollution often flies under the radar but poses an enormous, continuing challenge both globally and locally, in fresh and marine waters. Nutrients are the root cause of depleted oxygen "dead zones," massive algae blooms including hazardous algal blooms (HABs), global explosions in jellyfish populations, and ocean acidification. The sources of excess nutrients include sewage treatment plants, animal operations, and nonpoint sources such as logging and farming.

Panelists: *Northwest Environmental Advocates (OR) - Nina Bell & Albert Ettinger*

## ***Dispossession, Displacement and Climate Mobility Justice***

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: EMU 231

The interaction between human-caused environmental change and human mobility is deeply rooted in humanity's origins. Dispossession, displacement and forced migration tied to land and environmental resources, in the name of extraction, so-called development, conservation and preservation, is a centuries-old phenomena at the heart of ongoing projects of racial capitalist colonial modernity. Grappling with climate change-related (im)mobilities today requires a reckoning with histories of violent dis/continuities, ruptures and assemblages, including an analysis of the ways in which laws and policies around land tenure and use, Indigenous sovereignty, environmental resource management, migration and housing have historically been and continue to be used in legally violent ways to dispossess, displace and obfuscate the rights of racial capitalist coloniality's 'disposable' subjects. Drawing on critical, decolonial, feminist, social, racial, economic and environmental justice and rights-respecting approaches, this panel aims to situate contemporary climate-related (im)mobility and related governance challenges within broader discussions on de/coloniality, unsustainable environmental management practices and housing justice.

Panelists: *Beyond Climate Collaborative - Lauren Grant & Dr. David Wrathall*

## ***Oregon's 39,000 square miles of conservation zoning on private lands: A half century battle against urban and rural sprawl led by public interest groups***

**Panel 6** | 2:15-3:45pm | Room: EMU 023



Seen from space Oregon looks very different from other states; there are clear limits to urban development and beyond the sharp edge of the cities are Oregon's working lands and natural areas. This was accomplished by zoning almost all rural private lands in Oregon for farming, forestry, ranching and coastal and natural resources. Every city, regardless of population, has an urban growth boundary. Inside urban growth boundaries, class-based zoning that enforces racial and economic segregation has been abolished and restraints on residential density removed. Although far from perfect and under constant attack, this approach has major benefits for water, wildlife, greenhouse gas reduction and taxpayers. Learn about what has worked, what can be applied in other states, current issues and the major roles played by public interest organizations and active citizens.

Panelists: *Alexandria Dolezal, Rory Isbell & Robert Liberty*

**Keynote 2 - Rosemary Ahtuanguak & Enei Begay**  
12:00-2:00 p.m. - EMU Ballroom  
details on pg.10-11



# Sunday Panels

**CLE** = pending CLE credits

LS = Knight Law School EMU = Erb Memorial Union

*PANEL ROOM CAPACITY DISCLAIMER:* Please observe room capacity when attending panels. Panels are hosted on a first come, first served basis. Thank you for understanding.

## ***Rural Communities Deserve Clean Water Too: The Safe Drinking Water Act and Agricultural Pollution***

**Panel 7** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 141

**CLE**

Over the last decade, petitioners in five states have asked the EPA to use its authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act to address nitrate pollution from industrial agricultural practices. All five petitions—from Wisconsin, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, and Iowa—have told stories of unsafe applications of manure and nitrogen fertilizer by factory farms leading to alarming nitrate levels in critical sources of drinking water. The EPA's responses to these petitions have varied from silence to requests for immediate and meaningful action from state agencies. This panel, consisting of attorneys representing petitioners from several states, will discuss background on the SDWA, including its history, EPA's powers and available remedies, and the petition process. The panel will also describe the various petitions submitted to the EPA, the EPA's responses, the outlook for meaningful change resulting from the petitions, and potential next steps in their states.

Panelists: *Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy* - Joy Anderson, Tyler Lobdell & Michael Schmidt

## ***Ignoring Science, Policy, and NEPA: BLM's Push to Log Western Oregon's Last Best Forests***

**Panel 7** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 142

**CLE**

Since BLM adopted its Western Oregon RMPs in 2016, the agency has ramped up proposals to clearcut and heavily thin some of the last intact lower-elevation old forest stands that provide vitally important habitat, carbon storage, and fire resilience for surrounding communities. BLM has purposefully avoided site-specific NEPA analysis for these proposals and ignored federal policy calling for the conservation of older forests as a natural climate solution. In response, groups have brought a number of legal challenges to BLM logging sales, with courts pushing back against the agency's attempts to skirt NEPA and mandatory RMP direction. Advocates and attorneys involved in these lawsuits will provide litigation updates and hopes for the future of Western Oregon BLM lands.

Panelists: *Oregon Wild* - John Persell, Meriel Darzen, Michael Dotson & Grace Brahler

## ***You Are What You Eat: How Impact Litigation Is Fighting Back Against Greenwashing in Food Labels***

**Panel 7** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 241

**CLE**

A discussion of the ongoing consumer/environmental litigation on food labels, their legal precedents, and how these impact litigation can combat and reduce the environmental harms of industrial agriculture and promote better food systems.

Panelists: *Center for Food Safety* - George Kimbrell, Paige Tomaselli & Rachel S. Doughty

## ***The Arachne Project / Conservation for an Interwoven World, Unravelling***

**Panel 7** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 243

**Hybrid**

**CLE**

A changing world and a changing vision of the role of humans in the world invite a radical reimagining of environmental conservation. What emerging visions and values can guide conservation practices as the world enters a dangerously uncertain future? The old conservation challenge may have been to find ways that ecosystems can be isolated and protected from humans. The new challenge is to find ways that ecosystems can become healthier because people live here – as relatives, not as managers or owners. Drawing on ecosystem science, Indigenous wisdom, environmental ethics, and just practices, new conservation can mend human relations with the natural world and thus with one another.

Panelists: *Leslie Weldon, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Michael Paul Nelson, Jason Mark & Kathleen Dean Moore (facilitator)*

## ***Saving Washington's Legacy Forests***

**Panel 7** | 9:00-10:30am | Room: LS 242

The fight to save the structurally complex, naturally regrown “legacy” forests managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources in the Puget Sound lowlands began with citizen activists ground-truthing timber sales, and has grown to involve county commissioners, the state legislature and courts, rising to prominence as a hotly debated campaign issue in the statewide Lands Commissioner race. This panel will describe legacy forests and touch on each of those elements of the fight to save them.

Panelists: *WA State Lands Working Group, PNW Forest Climate Alliance* - Brel Froebe, Jim Oliver, Joshua Wright & Tye Menser

## ***Killing Barred Owls to Help Spotted Owls: A Necessary Evil or an Unjust Slaughter?***

**Panel 8** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 241

**CLE**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized a plan where it would kill up to half a million federally-protected barred owls in the Pacific Northwest over the next thirty years. The government says that this action is necessary to help ESA-listed northern spotted owls and soon-to-be-listed California spotted owls. But is this justice for spotted owls? Animal activists and attorneys, including members of the panel, believe the government is unfairly scapegoating barred owls for the human-caused factors that have imperiled spotted owls, namely logging, other habitat destruction, and climate change. Animal advocate groups have filed two lawsuits in an effort to prevent the killing of barred owls. Those lawsuits claim the plan is illegal under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Wilderness Act. Advocates, ethicists, and members of the public are also worried about what the government's barred owl plan may mean for other species who adapt their habitats and range because of human development and climate change. Yet a number of environmental organizations and spotted owl advocates, including one of the panelists, support the plan. That panelists organization (along with some others) have moved to intervene in the lawsuits to defend the plan. The barred owl plan raises a number of difficult questions for which there are no easy answers, but the questions presented will be recurring ones that environmental advocates need to come to grips with. Panelists will address a number of topics: previous experiments with killing barred owls and litigation over those experiments; the details of the current barred owl management plan; why some environmental advocates support the plan and believe it will help spotted owls; the lawsuits challenging the plan; the ethical dilemmas presented by killing one owl species to help another; and the implications for other species going forward.

Panelists: *Friends of Animals* - Stephen Hernick, Jessica Blome, Tom Wheeler & Avram Hiller

## ***Watchdogging 101: Digital Sleuthing and Ground-Truthing For Environmental Advocacy***

**Panel 8** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 141

Join us for an interactive workshop designed to equip advocates with the tools they need to uncover and fight against environmental issues in their communities. Whether you're looking at a city development proposal or joining a neighborhood info session hosted by an encroaching enterprise, you've probably waded through a fair amount of bureaucratic jargon and greenwashing buzzwords. Here we'll discuss ways to leverage open source intelligence (OSINT), geospatial data, public records requests, and ground based surveys to read between the lines of land use changes, management strategies, and development proposals. We'll dive into successful examples where these tactics have been instrumental in addressing and fighting back against ecologically damaging projects and industrial expansion. In a world where access to information is vital, it's up to us to uncover the truth behind manipulative or obscure language. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or just starting out, we hope this workshop will empower you to use information as a catalyst for environmental justice, forest and climate defense.

Panelists: *Cascadia Wildlands* - Madeline Cowen, Lily Kuentz, Derek DeForest, Jordan Latter & Karen Coulter

## ***Protecting Sacred Places on Public Land, Air, & Water***

**Panel 8** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 110

**CLE**

This panel will build on and expand on issues that will also be a part of the panels on the Oak Flat cases. This panel will focus on applications and operations of the National Historic Preservation Act and Traditional Cultural Properties, and will include other Indigenous Native American sacred places under threat and damage from a variety of conflicts, including 'green' energy minerals mining, new industrial energy generation complexes, and electrical transmission corridor developments. Threats and stresses on the historic Japanese American World War 2 internment & prison camps in the U.S. and the survivors and their descendants, and the emerging concept & understanding of "civil religion" as exercised on public lands will also be featured. Ramifications of the recent new Presidential executive orders & directives, and related court orders, will also be discussed.

Panelists: *Dr. Wendsler, Elizabeth S. Merritt, Guy Lopez, Dan Sakura & Michael Nixon (moderator)*

## ***Beaver Believers***

**Panel 8** | 10:45-12:15pm | Room: LS 242

Discussion on beaver relocation, restoration, coexistence, data collection and policy.

Panelists: *Bark* - Amanda Keasberry, Sristi Kamal & Joe Weirich

**Keynote 3 - Maria Nuñez-Lopez**  
12:30-2:30 p.m. - EMU Ballroom  
details on pg.11



## ***THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE 42ST ANNUAL PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE!***

### **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 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, if you are able, 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. Respect all types of religious practices.

### **RECORDING POLICY**

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If you need additional technical information, please contact UO Event Services at (541) 346-6000.

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### **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. Accommodations 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.

### **UNIVERSITY SCHOOL COURTESY**

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

### **PANEL ROOM CAPACITY DISCLAIMER**

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

### **REPRESENTATON DISCLAIMER**

PIELC Co-Directors, Coordinators, 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.



# ***A Memorial for Bob Sallinger***

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Bob Sallinger. Photo by Alexi Horowitz/EarthFix

## ***Bob Sallinger***

*A fierce advocate and conservationist throughout Portland and across Oregon's landscapes and waterways.*

*His work will be felt around the state for generations to come.*

For more than 30 years before taking the helm of Willamette Riverkeeper and starting Bird Conservation Oregon, Sallinger worked at the Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon), serving for most of that time as conservation director. He plunged into virtually every major environmental issue, from West Hayden Island in North Portland to Sand Island near the mouth of the Columbia River, to the long disputes over water and habitat in the Klamath River basin in Southern Oregon.

He graduated from Reed College with a degree in biology and then earned a law degree at the Lewis & Clark School of Law, focusing on environmental law. He testified regularly at City Hall, in the Legislature and in front of the boards of state natural resource agencies. Policymakers—and reporters—knew he would show up well prepared and ready for battle. Unlike some advocates, Sallinger excelled at behind-the-scenes scut work and also sought compromise.

Among the many awards he won: the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society David B. Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Special Achievement Award for work recovering peregrine falcons, the Oregon Land Board Partnership Award for collaboration, and leadership awards from Friends of Trees, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, and other community groups. He also played an essential role in advocating for North Portland's rich natural habitats and wildlife, spending years working alongside community members on the EPA Superfund cleanup on the lower 11 miles of the Willamette River.

He will be deeply missed.



Notes


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See you  
next year at  
**PIELC**  
**2026!**