Environmental, Energy, and Resources Law

37th WATER LAW CONFERENCE

March 26-27, 2019
Grand Hyatt Denver
Denver, Colorado
ENVIROMENTAL, ENERGY, AND RESOURCES LAW

37TH WATER LAW CONFERENCE

DENVER
COLORADO

MARCH 26-27, 2019
GRAND HYATT DENVER

2019 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
SPECIAL MASTERS INTERVIEW WITH

DEBORAH E. GREENSPAN
SPECIAL MASTER, BLANK ROME LLP

&

KRISTIN A. LINSLEY
SPECIAL MASTER, GIBSON DUNN

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED
MARCH 4, 2019
March 26-27, 2019
GRAND HYATT DENVER

2018-2019 Section Chair
Amy L. Edwards, Holland & Knight LLP, Washington, DC

Programming Planning Chair
Roger Sims, Holland & Knight LLP, Orlando, FL

Planning Committee
Robert Abrams, Florida A&M University, Orlando, FL
Bennett L. Bearden, Geological Survey of Alabama and The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
Nancye Bethurem, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division, Dallas, TX
Alan E. Curtis, White & Jankowski LLP, Denver, CO
John B. Draper, Draper & Draper LLC, Santa Fe, NM
John Echohawk, Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, CO
Cynthia Harris, Environmental Law Institute, Washington, DC
Ilene Munk, Foley & Mansfield, Portland, OR
Kathy Robb, Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C., New York, NY
Ian Smith, Historical Research Associates, Inc., Missoula, MT
Mark L. Walters, Jackson Walker, Austin, TX

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Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
March 27, 2019

7:00am—8:00am
Continental Breakfast

8:00am—9:15am
Litigating, Negotiating, and Implementing Tribal Water Rights in the United States

9:15am—9:30am
Networking Break

9:30am—10:45am
NPDES Permits for Discharges Carried by Groundwater: Is That a Thing?

10:45am—11:00am
Networking Break

11:00am—12:30pm
ETHICS: The Attorney-Client Privilege in the Twitter Era

1:00pm—4:00pm
Public Service Project

6:30pm—8:00pm
Reception

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**Program Schedule**

**Monday, March 25, 2019**

6:30pm – 9:30pm
**TASTE OF SEER (Dine Arounds)**
Dinner reservations have been made at several restaurants in Denver near the conference hotel. Each dinner will be organized by a Section leader and will have a conversation theme. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, eat great food, and have lively discussions. Information about how to sign-up for these Dutch-treat dinners (each person pays for his or her own meal) will be sent to conference registrants by email.

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**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

8:15am – 9:30am
**EAST, WEST, COLORADO, AND THE COLORADO RIVER**
Don’t miss this discussion on the foundations of water law, with insights for both new and experienced practitioners. This session will summarize the basics as well as provide informative updates on topics with potentially broad applicability in the era of increasing water demand and less reliable water supplies. Panelists will consider the law governing the Colorado River and features of Colorado’s unique form of prior appropriation that provide a valuable model on several issues facing all prior appropriation states and states struggling with groundwater and streamwater interactions.

**MODERATOR**
Bennett L. Bearden, Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the State Geologist, Geological Survey of Alabama, and Adjunct Professor, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

**SPEAKERS**
Robert Abrams, Professor of Law, Florida A&M University College of Law, Orlando, FL
Jennifer Crandell, Special Counsel, Attorney General of Nevada, Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
Sarah Klahn, Somach, Simmons, and Dunn, Denver, CO

9:45am – 11:00am
**INTERSTATE DISPUTES/U.S. SUPREME COURT CASE UPDATE**
Every water practitioner needs to understand the principles of interstate water apportionment, including equitable apportionment and enforcement by the U.S. Supreme Court, compacts, and apportionment by Congress. Over the past decade, the Supreme Court has accepted an increasing number of interstate lawsuits under the Court’s original and exclusive jurisdiction. While these cases pit one state against another, they take place within a wider context of state and federal regulation and litigation, including state administration and federal water-supply management. The panel will analyze that context in connection with three pending Supreme Court cases: Florida v. Georgia, an equitable apportionment case over surface water, Mississippi v. Tennessee, an equitable apportionment case over groundwater, and Texas v. New Mexico & Colorado, a case to enforce the Rio Grande Compact. Attendees will hear how these cases may result in regulation initiatives or further litigation.

**MODERATOR**
Greg Hobbs, Senior Water Judge, Colorado Courts, Denver, CO

**SPEAKERS**
Heather Elliott, Professor of Law, University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa, AL
Sandra Zellmer, Professor of Law, University of Montana School of Law, Missoula, MT

11:15am - 12:30pm
**THE CULVERTS CASE: INTERFERENCE WITH TRIBAL FISHING RIGHTS BY GOVERNMENT STORMWATER DIVERSION AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS**
The Stevens Treaties, signed by several Pacific Northwest tribes in the mid-1850s, reserved tribal rights to fish “at all usual and accustomed grounds” in common with settlers. Interpretation of this provision has been subjected to litigation for over a century, including the 1905 U.S. Supreme Court case, United States v. Winans, and the Court’s affirmation of 1974’s Boldt Decision (United States v. Washington), which guaranteed tribes up to 50 percent of the region’s fisheries. The “Culverts Case” is the most recent sub-proceeding of United States v. Washington to reach the Supreme Court, affirming a federal court injunction requiring the State of Washington to remove or retrofit hundreds of road culverts blocking critical fish runs. Panelists and attendees will explore how the Culverts Case applies federal Indian law concepts to water quality and habitat protection—and consider how tribes might leverage off-reservation fishing and other treaty rights for greater water quality protection.
Lake asserts that the state’s public trust doctrine requires limitation of the rights of the appropriators. This case appears to reprise several key issues addressed in California’s well-known *National Audubon* (Mono Lake) case. In May 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit certified the following question to the Nevada Supreme Court: “Does the public trust doctrine apply to rights already appropriated and settled under the doctrine of prior appropriation and, if so, to what extent?” This panel will explore the Walker River/Walker Lake litigation and the issues it poses for the public trust doctrine in Nevada and the extent to which the outcome is likely to influence the doctrine in other prior appropriation states. Based on the examples provided and an in-depth discussion, attendees will be equipped to critically analyze instances of appropriation and the effect of the public doctrine.

**MODERATOR**
Barbara Coens, University Distinguished Professor, University of Idaho College of Law, Moscow, ID

**SPEAKERS**
Gordon DePaoli, Woodburn & Wedge, Reno, NV
Lisa Hehl, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Gardnerville, NV
Simeon Herskovitz, Advocates for Community & Environment, Taos, NM

**9:00am – 10:00am**
**WELCOME RECEPTION**
After a full day of educational programming join fellow attendees for drinks, food, and fellowship at our kick-off reception.

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**8:00am – 9:15am**
**LITIGATING, NEGOTIATING, AND IMPLEMENTING TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES**
The U.S. Supreme Court’s November 2017 cert denial in *Coachella Valley Water District v. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians* will have significant implications for both tribes and non-Indian stakeholders in groundwater-dependent basins throughout the United States. Outlining some of these potential impacts, an August 2018 article in *Science* estimated that more than 200 Indian tribes in the West have unresolved claims to groundwater, some of which involve lands in areas with significant concerns about groundwater quality. In addition to discussing the consequences of this landmark case, this panel will provide an update on ongoing efforts to establish and quantify tribal water rights through litigation and settlement efforts. Attendees will gain insight and understanding into issues of significance to tribes, as well as the challenges faced when implementing and enforcing both tribal water rights settlements and adjudicated tribal water rights.

**MODERATOR**
Jeanne Whiteing, Attorney, Whiteing Law, Boulder, CO

**SPEAKERS**
M. Alexander Pearl, Director of Center for Water Law and Policy, Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, TX
Stanley Pollack, Contract Attorney, Water Rights Unit, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Window Rock, AZ
Vanessa Ray-Hodge, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Mielke & Brownell, LLP, Albuquerque, NM

**9:30am – 10:45am**
**NPDES PERMITS FOR DISCHARGES CARRIED BY GROUNDWATER: IS THAT A THING?**
The Clean Water Act (CWA) regulates “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) which, by definition, does not include groundwater. In 2018, two federal appeals courts held that discharges through groundwater hydrologically connected to WOTUS are subject to regulation under the CWA. The Ninth Circuit concluded that treated wastewater injected into wells and carried by groundwater to the Pacific Ocean after 84 days was “fairly traceable” to WOTUS. The Fourth Circuit found that a gasoline spill that continued to migrate from a repaired underground pipe break resulted in a “discharge” through soil and groundwater into adjacent wetlands and creeks. Both courts held that CWA groundwater jurisdiction is not limited to discharges of pollutants “directly” from point sources to WOTUS. These cases leave regulation ambiguous and pose substantial technical and regulatory challenges. This panel, from diverse perspectives, will discuss the status of regulation and the challenges in implementing the case law while equipping attendees with practical knowledge to assist stakeholders.

**MODERATOR**
Marcia Greenblatt, Principal, Integral Consulting, Inc., Louisville, CO

**SPEAKERS**
John Feggani (invited), Hayes and Boone, LLP, Denver, CO
Frank Holleman, Southern Environmental Law Center, Chapel Hill, NC

**11:00am – 12:30pm**
**ETHICS: THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE IN THE TWITTER ERA**
A panel of attorneys knowledgeable of the many ambiguities present in social media will tackle the difficult ethical challenges faced daily by attorneys. Whether working in private practice, as in-house counsel, in academia, government, or non-profit organizations, today’s attorneys face an expanding and myriad number of ways in which they can knowingly, and unknowingly, violate the ethical rules, simply by using social media. Panelists will reinforce safe practices and procedures to ensure ethical rules are not sacrificed during social media use.

**SPEAKERS**
Kevin Kinnear, Porzak Browning & Bushong LLP, Boulder, CO
Sylvia Quast, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Heather Welles, O’Melveny & Myers LLP, Los Angeles, CA

*Additional speakers to be confirmed, speakers subject to change.*

**1:00pm – 4:00pm**
**PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT**
This year’s public service project will be a joint effort between participants of the 37th Water Law Conference and the 48th Spring Conference. A boxed lunch will be provided for all participants from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided, departing the hotel promptly at 1:00 p.m. To volunteer for the public service project, sign up while registering.

**6:00pm – 8:00pm**
**RECEPTION**
Join us to catch up with old friends, become acquainted with new ones. This unique networking opportunity will include attendees of the 48th Spring Conference.
Enjoy everything exciting that Denver has to offer.
Take a dip in the indoor pool.
Experience a unique Denver dining experience at the downtown restaurants and cafes.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Grand Hyatt Denver, 1750 Welton St., Denver, CO 80202, at the discounted rate of $199 plus tax for single/double rooms. A limited number of government rate rooms are also available for $178 plus tax (or the current government rate). A valid government ID will be required upon check in.

The deadline for room reservations at the discounted rate is Monday, March 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. (CST). To book our contracted rate, call reservations at (800) 223–1234 or the hotel directly at (303) 295–1234 or reserve online at https://bit.ly/2THKZTV or at https://bit.ly/2Ceq7MI for government employees. Be sure to mention the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources 2019 Water Law Conference.

The registration fee includes tuition and online course materials developed especially for this conference. In addition, your fee covers Tuesday’s continental breakfast, breaks, lunch, and reception and Wednesday’s continental breakfast, breaks, public service project, and reception.

Organizations registering three or more attendees are eligible for a group discount of 20% off each attendee’s registration. Please email environ@americanbar.org for more information.

We encourage you to register online at ambar.org/seerspring. If you want to register by mail visit ambar.org/seerspring to download a registration form. Please mail the form with your check (payable to the American Bar Association) or credit card information to: American Bar Association, Attn: Service Center—Meeting/Event Registrations Department, 321 N. Clark St., Fl. 19, Chicago, IL 60654 or fax to our secure fax number: (312) 988–5850. All attendees must be preregistered for this conference.

If you are an ABA member but not a member of the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, your conference registration fee now includes Section membership, a $75 value! You will be automatically enrolled in the Section. ABA membership is a prerequisite of Section membership. If you are not already an ABA member, please call (800) 285-2221. Free Section membership only applies to individuals who have not been a member of the Section during the past two years.
**Additional Information**

**ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY**

Calculated with great care, the Section estimates that the average 48th Spring Conference attendee’s participation will generate approximately one metric ton of carbon emissions. Help offset your carbon footprint by adding the cost of a one-ton carbon credit from a verified offset project that will reduce greenhouse gases. Contributions to The Fund for Justice and Education (FJE) are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Purchase your carbon offset when you register.

**CONFERENCE SPEAKER SUPPORT**

The Section strives to provide programming representing a unique depth of perspectives on all issues. We consistently work to include speakers on panels that represent tribal interests, nongovernmental organizations, and academia. To assist these speakers with the expense of attending conferences the Section offers a limited number of travel reimbursements. To ensure that the Section can continue to offer travel assistance to such speakers please consider donating to our Program Support Fund. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Make your donation of $25 (or more) when you register.

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE**

The deadline to receive the early bird registration rate for the 37th Water Law Conference is **Monday, February 11, 2019**. The final cutoff date for advance registration is **Monday, March 4, 2019**. After this date, registrations must include an additional $25 for processing.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Registrants who are unable to attend the conference will receive a refund less a $50 administrative fee if written notice of cancellation is received by Monday, March 4, 2019. No refunds will be granted after this date. Cancellations may be e-mailed to environ@americanbar.org or faxed to (312) 988–5572, Attn.: Program Assistant. Registration fees are not transferable to other Section or ABA programs. Substitutions for the program are acceptable. The ABA reserves the right to cancel any program and assumes no responsibility for personal expense.

**TUITION ASSISTANCE**

A limited number of registration fee waivers are available for government employees, public interest lawyers employed with nonprofit organizations, and academia. For programs with tuition costs over $500, qualifying lawyers will receive at least a 50 percent reduction in the course fee(s). To apply, complete the online application by visiting [bit.ly/37WaterLawTuitionAssistance](http://bit.ly/37WaterLawTuitionAssistance) by **Monday, February 4, 2019**.

**LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

A limited number of scholarships are available to law students interested in attending the entire conference and helping ensure our conference runs smoothly. To be considered, you must be a member of the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. Your application and resume must be submitted by **Monday, February 4, 2019** to be considered. This scholarship does not include lodging or transportation. To apply, complete the application by visiting [bit.ly/37WaterLawStudentScholar](http://bit.ly/37WaterLawStudentScholar).

**QUESTIONS?** Contact environ@americanbar.org.

**CONFERENCE COURSE MATERIALS**

Course materials and related background information will be provided to attendees online prior to the conference. You may wish to bring a device to view the materials on-site; complimentary Wi-Fi access will be available.

**CLE CREDIT**

The ABA directly applies for and ordinarily receives CLE credit for ABA programs in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, GU, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MN, MS, MO, MP, MT, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, VI, WA, WI, and WV. These states sometimes do not approve a program for credit before the program occurs. This transitional program is approved for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys in NY. Attorneys may be eligible to receive CLE credit through reciprocity or attorney self-submission in other states. For more information about CLE accreditation in your state, contact Yujin Maeng at yujin.maeng@americanbar.org.

**DRESS**

Section conferences are business casual. Suggested dress includes slacks, skirts, polo-type shirts or blouses, sweaters, and comfortable shoes. The hotel will be cool, so please pack a jacket or sweater.

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS**

If you have any dietary restrictions, please indicate so during registration or by email environ@americanbar.org by **Monday, February 4, 2019**, so that your needs are noted.

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS**

If any special arrangements are required for a person with a disability to attend this conference, please call Allison Read at (312) 988–5641 by **Monday, February 4, 2019**. Questions? Contact environ@americanbar.org with all program-related questions.
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Monday, February 11, 2019

HOUSING DEADLINE
Monday, March 4, 2019

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