

Friday, February 27th

Friday 7:30am – 10:00am
Registration and Welcome Breakfast

Friday 8:00am-9:00am

Professionalism

Lynn Luker will be framing her Professionalism discussion around the phenomenon of unconscious bias and understanding generational differences.

Friday 9:00am – 10:00am

Ethics

Dane Ciolino will discuss recent developments in Legal Ethics, including the impacts of the digital age, the attorney/client relationship, and limitations on attorney's freedom of speech.

Friday 10:00am - 11:30am

Justice in Action: Big Cases with Big Impact

While the BP prosecution winds through its fifth year, there is now much more enforcement action led by the US Department of Justice. National environmental enforcement actions send powerful signals through industry that compliance with law is a serious matter, with serious consequences. This panel tells the history of two of the biggest government verdicts in recent history through the eyes of the attorneys who prosecuted them (one a Tulane alum), complicated mixes of science, politics and law.

Friday 10:00am - 11:30am

Climate Change outlooks for COP21

This panel presents a discussion on COP 21 issues to be reviewed in Paris, including a presentation by the French Consul General in New Orleans. The goal of the Convention this year is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so as to limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The discussion will be viewed from three sides of the pyramid: law, diplomacy & policy, and science.

Friday 11:30am – 11:45am

Break

Friday 11:45am - 1:15pm

Making Solar Power a Reality

The most promising mechanism for advancing solar power has been a process for allowing residential and commercial generators – the panels on their roofs – to feed back into the energy grid. How does that happen, how does Louisiana handle it, and how does industry now calculate electricity costs and rates?

Friday 11:45am - 1:15pm

Fracking Waste Water: Where's the Water?

The fracking process can consume enormous volumes of water, often taken from lakes and rivers that are also important drinking water supplies, aquatic habitats, and valuable recreation resources. How are these impacts managed in Louisiana, and how is the industry responding to these issues across the country?

Friday 1:15pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

Friday 2:00pm – 3:30pm

The Climate Change Case

Section 111D of the Clean Air Act is the vehicle for dramatic, new EPA proposals to curb carbon emissions and greenhouse gases which have been a political football for two decades. A Supreme Court decision forced the agency to act. Are the actions now outlined, requiring serious limits on carbon emissions, within EPA's authority? And if so, what will Congress do?

Friday 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Fracking Preemption: Who Gets to Decide?

St Tammany Parish and local jurisdictions in many states banned or seriously limited fracking operations within their borders. Are these valid exercises of municipal power, or are they preempted by state laws promoting fracking across-the-board? The question is coming up frequently, and the answers are split. We examine them and their consequences with two Tulane law alums now representing interests on both sides of the conflict.

Friday 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Energy: For Independence or for Export? The Plaquemines Coal Terminal and Beyond

This panel discusses the shifting rationales for accelerated energy production, including the application to coal mining and exports. In addition, legislators and regulators will be more focused on revamping the 1975 vintage prohibition on crude oil exports a discussion of the pros and cons of oil and gas export will be led. LNG exports are still waiting on infrastructure, the earliest of which should be in place by the end of 2015.

Friday 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Big Bears and Wildlife Corridors, East and West

The two dominant bear species of America, the Black Bear in the east and the famed grizzly of the west face different challenges, but most at issue the impact of human intrusion and loss of habitat. One question is whether corridors providing special protections and safe transit between bear populations hold promise for long-term sustainability, and if so how might they be established. Two bear advisors will discuss

their particular experiences with the Louisiana Black Bear and the Grizzly, both currently listed as endangered species.

Friday 5:00pm – 5:30pm

Break

Weinmann Hall: MPR

Friday 5:30pm

Keynote Speaker: Pat Mulroy

If water is a building block of life, in the American West it is THE building block, the opportunity and limiting factor of virtually every activity undertaken by humans and other living things. No region of America faces more water shortages than the Southwest, within which Las Vegas has been a leader in both the acquisition of water rights and, more recently, its conservation. We have the opportunity to hear from one of the west's foremost leaders in water planning, from the hotspot of Las Vegas; a test case for what might be, and might not be, possible.

Saturday, February 28th

Saturday 8:00am – 9:00am

Check In and Welcome Breakfast

Saturday 9:00am – 10:00am

Plenary Antonio A. Oposa, Jr.: Urban Transportation ... Who Are Roads For?

Urban transportation dependent upon the automobile has, despite enormous expenditures, run into ever greater congestion, hours lost in traffic, pollution illnesses and deaths, and, now, dramatic shortages in its gas-tax fueled trust fund. Cities around the world, e.g. London, Paris, Bogota, Denver, are experimenting with new transportation modes, with Manila in the Philippines leading the way, where citizens have made a bold claim for half of the roadways for alternative transportation modes. This panel compares developments in Manila to those here in New Orleans, two pieces of this mosaic.

Saturday 10:00am – 11:30am

The Children Speak: The Atmospheric Trust Cases

Weinmann Hall: Room 151

In what may be the boldest climate change cases ever launched, starting in 2011, youth across the U.S. and abroad have filed unprecedented legal actions based on the Public Trust Doctrine against their governments to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate system. The youth are claiming that their governments' failure to regulate carbon emissions violates the public trust in the atmosphere itself, for which today's youth and future generations are the primary losers. While the application of public trust principles to the atmosphere is novel, its application has grown in the U.S. and abroad, from roots in the protection of navigable waters to riparian areas, beaches, parks, and other public amenities. These atmospheric trust cases not only challenge the

courts, but also challenge the status quo gridlocked by climate change denial, industry opposition, and the limits of existing statutory law.

Saturday 10:00am – 11:30am

Whaling

Weinmann Hall: Room 257

This panel will be a discussion on the international whaling dispute at the levels of international environmental law, ethics and culture. In addition, the debate will review controversial issues of sustainability, conservation, as well as ownership and national sovereignty.

Saturday 11:30am – 1:00pm

Lunch & Stump the Chumps

Saturday 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Opening the Arctic 1: The Impacts of Climate Change on the Environment and Shipping

Warming seas and rising seas dramatically affect the Arctic ecosystem. At the same time new opportunities are opening for shipping, the Northwest Passage in effect, sought after by European explorers for more than three centuries. This panel opens a discussion of how climate change works in the Arctic, and its importance to the maritime industry.

Saturday 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Prairie Dogs, the Endangered Species Act, and the Limits of Federal Power

Can the federal government use the Endangered Species Act to protect the threatened Utah prairie dog -- a "keystone" species to some and a nuisance to others--under the limits of the Commerce Clause? A federal district court in Utah recently said "no." Five federal circuit courts dealing with similar "intrastate" species have said "yes." We hear from different perspectives on a case that could find its way to the Supreme Court.

Saturday 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Opening the Arctic 2: What Now?

Polar Bears, Native Americans, the Polar Code and the Impacts of Climate Change. Some of the most dramatic effects of Climate Change are on species already threatened with extinction, including the polar bear, and native peoples populations along the coast, also threatened. International policy has changed and has been set to evolve. This panel explores the problems and the prospects for managing them under existing law. What can or should be done?

Saturday 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Environmental Justice in Lake Charles, La: Is It Possible?

The national boom in natural gas production has brought a new industries to Lake Charles, an area already dominated by chemical plants, around which small, long-standing communities sit surrounded by pollution and other disproportionate impacts. Two of these communities, Willow Springs and Mossville, have been on the front lines of citizen action for many years. Mossville, primarily African American with roots going

back to the Civil War, is now the target of a massive buyout by chemical giant Salsol. This panel discusses several facets of the issue there in the affected communities of the Bayou d'Inde, the Pearson Loop, Westlake, Maplewood, Sulphur, and Lake Charles communities.

Saturday 4:00pm – 4:15pm

Break

Saturday 4:15pm – 5:45pm

Levee Board Suit: Where Now?

The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East lawsuit seeking damages from nearly ninety oil, gas and pipeline companies for damages to coastal wetlands is moving towards its second anniversary. Meanwhile, the defendant companies have filed motions to dismiss, and the state legislature has enacted legislation, which proponents contend prevents the SLFPA-E from pursuing its claims. Those motions remain pending, and the applicability and constitutionality of that legislation has been challenged – in two courts – and is on its way to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Saturday 4:15pm – 5:45pm

Ocean Winds: What is the Future of Ocean Wind Power?

Offshore wind energy presents a range of technical, economic, political, and navigation issues. Particularly, the recent withdrawal of the Cape Wind project will be discussed. This panel addresses these issues and developments on both sides of the topic.

Saturday 6:00pm

Keynote Speaker: Lt. General Russel Honoré

In light of the impending 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, it is important to reflect on one of the biggest disasters in the United States. One of the few bright spots in government response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans was General Russell Honoré, whose effective command of federal military presence here helped restore and maintain order. Following his retirement, General Honoré doubled down on his commitment to New Orleans and South Louisiana with the creation of a remarkable citizen's organization, The Green Army, with an agenda that embraces seemingly intractable pollution issues. Known for his courage during Katrina, that courage has become more manifest with his strong public positions on many key issues in the region. He is a true leader, and we have the opportunity to learn where he is going, and how we might get there.