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## Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at UO Feb 26 - Mar 1

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Come to the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at UO Law, Feb 26 - Mar 1. Spectacular annual conference brings together environmentalist attorneys and activists.

Change and Unity for Environmental Progress: Celebrate the 27th Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference

Thursday, February 26 - Sunday, March 1, 2009 at the University of Oregon School of Law in Eugene.

Concerns about climate change, energy use and environmental responsibility rank among the most pressing issues facing all nations. With environmental awareness on the rise and the increasing economic need to restrict consumption and preserve resources, there has never been a better time to build a unified movement to guide our planet forward. With this in mind, the 27th annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) seeks to promote "Solidarity! United Action for the Greener Good."

2009 represents not only a time of political change in the United States, but also a time of great social and ecological change in every community throughout the world. It is critical that citizens across the globe motivate, organize and mobilize to curb climate change. With PIELC 2009, we hope to do our part by spreading the message and strengthening the cause, encouraging attorneys, activists, and concerned citizens around the globe to come together and seek solutions to a crisis that threatens us all.

PIELC has become the premier annual gathering for environmentalists from across the globe, and is distinguished as the oldest and largest of its kind. The four-day conference includes over 100 panels, workshops, and multi-media presentations addressing the entire spectrum of environmental law and advocacy. This year's topics include: climate change, renewable energy, forestry, political reform, pollution, international environmental issues, indigenous rights, and sustainability.

The Conference features daily afternoon and evening keynote presentations by preeminent attorneys, activists, scientists, politicians, philosophers, and authors. This year PIELC welcomes as keynote speakers:

- Riki Ott: Founder of three nonprofit organizations and author of two books that address the lingering social, economic and environmental harm of the Exxon Valdez spill. Ott lives in Cordova, Alaska, the fishing community most affected by the disaster.
- Katharine Redford: Co-Founder and U.S. Office Director of Earth Rights International and adjunct professor of law at both UVA and the Washington College of Law at American University. Redford served as counsel in the landmark case *Doe v. Unocal* and splits her time between ERI's Thailand and U.S. offices.
- Matthew Pawa: Environmental attorney responsible for initiating a landmark global warming case in July 2004 on behalf of eight States, the City of New York, and two non-profit groups against five major power companies that emit large quantities of greenhouse gases. He currently represents parties in greenhouse gas, pollution, and hazardous waste litigation.

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- Derrick Jensen: Acclaimed author of thirteen books, including A Language Older Than Words, The Culture of Make Believe, and Endgame. Jensen weaves together history, philosophy, environmentalism, economics, literature and psychology to produce a powerful argument and a passionate call for action.
- Gail Small: Director of Native Action, an environmental justice organization in Lame Deer, Montana, dedicated to serving the tribal community.
- Stephen Stec: Adjunct Professor at Central European University and Associate Scholar at Leiden University. Additionally, Stec was an extensive contributor to The Aarhus Convention, which grants the public rights and imposes on parties and public authorities obligations regarding access to information, public participation, and access to justice.
- Claudia Polsky: Deputy Director of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Green Technology in California's Department of Toxic Substances Control. Polsky's duties include implementing California's Green Chemistry Initiative, overseeing hazardous waste source-reduction programs, and working with staff engineers to evaluate and deploy new environmental technologies that reduce the need for toxic chemicals.
- Anhthu Hoang: WE ACT's General Counsel responsible for developing legislative and policy strategies aimed at achieving a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment for low-income communities of color, especially those in Northern Manhattan.
- Pablo Fajardo Mendoza: A 2008 Goldman Prize the CNN 2007 Heroes Award Recipient has led an unprecedented community-driven legal battle against Chevron-Texaco in Ecuador and what has been called one of the most catastrophic environmental disasters in human history.
- Fernando Ochoa: Legal Advisor for Pronatura Noroeste and the Waterkeeper Program for the Baja California Peninsula and founding member and Executive Director for Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste, an environmental advocacy organization. Ochoa's work has set important legal precedents on environmental law in order for local communities to gain participation in decision making processes, transparency in corporate and governmental action, and increased access to justice.
- Carla Garcia Zendejas: From Tijuana, she has worked to protect Mexico from polluting energy projects, including a canceled Chevron liquefied natural gas receiving terminal near the Coronado Islands.

PIELC is organized solely by the volunteers of Land Air Water, a student environmental law society, and is sponsored by Friends of Land Air Water, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information about the Conference, traveling to Eugene, and opportunities for participants, please visit our website at <http://www.pielc.org>. Online registration is available.

For a list of panels, from forest law to direct action; from organizing against LNG to the green scare, see : <http://www.pielc.org/Brochures/2009.pdf>

📄 homepage: <http://www.pielc.org>

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