



**FOURTH SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCED LEGAL TOPICS
IN LAND CONSERVATION
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FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Melinda Beck practices in the areas of conservation, real estate transactions and real property transfers. On the conservation side, Melinda assists local governments, land trusts and private landowners with purchases and donations of conservation easements throughout the United States and internationally. In her career, Melinda has completed hundreds of conservation transactions including charitable donations, purchases and bargain sales of conservation easements. Melinda also co-authored and co-edited the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts' publication: *Mineral Development and Land Conservation: A Handbook for Conservation Professionals* (2008 and Revised 2011). In addition to her conservation law practice, Melinda assists landowners in general real estate transactions such as the purchase and sale of residential, commercial and vacant land and the transfer of mineral and water rights.

Joan Dwoskin is a senior attorney with The Nature Conservancy, based in the Atlanta, Georgia office. She chairs the Conservancy's Conservation Easement Legal Practice Area Team and handles a wide variety of conservation transactions, including purchases, sales, conservation easements, military buffering projects, stewardship issues and government grants.

Joseph Fitzsimons is a natural resources, oil and gas and water law attorney and third-generation South Texas rancher. He has served as vice-president of the Texas Wildlife Association and is a Director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He is a former chairman of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission. In 2009 he placed a conservation easement on his ranch.

Tamara Galanter is a partner with Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger LLP in San Francisco, where she counsels and litigates on behalf of public entities, land trusts, community groups and environmental organizations concerning environmental and land use matters, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), conservation easements, subdivision and general plan law, public agency administration, and real estate transactions. Tamara serves as general and outside counsel to many land trusts, including the Tri-Valley Conservancy, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Sonoma Land Trust and the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust. She has worked with these and other organizations to draft, negotiate, and enforce conservation easements and to preserve and restore open space, farmland, parkland, and habitat for rare and endangered species. Tamara received her law degree from Yale Law School and graduated *magna cum laude* with bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

Susan Gretz is a senior attorney with The Nature Conservancy, where she manages litigation for the Conservancy's Central US Division and the estate administration team, and does real estate, contracts and other transactional work for various state chapters.

Scott Howard is an attorney with the law firm of Olson, Bzdok & Howard, P.C., which specializes in environmental, land use and real estate law. Scott is the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's lead attorney, and has assisted the conservancy in multiple transactions involving mineral issues. Scott has also represented numerous land owners in oil and gas matters.

Jessica Jay is the founding partner of Conservation Law, P.C., a law firm devoted to ensuring the permanence of land conservation through sound land conservation transactions and the defense and enforcement of perpetual conservation easements. Jessica represents and partners with land trusts, government entities, and landowners to conserve working landscapes and environmentally significant properties in the Rocky Mountain West. She actively engages conservation professionals, land trusts, and landowners in conservation workshops and discussions, and guides the next generation of land conservationists through her Land Conservation Law courses at the Vermont Law School and the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law. Jessica collaborates with the land trust community to develop and implement legal defense and enforcement mechanisms for easement holders, to design and protect conservation easement incentives, and to create enforceable perpetual conservation easements that anticipate changing conditions, climate, and public interests.

William Kohlase is an attorney in Peoria, Illinois with the firm of Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC. His practice is concentrated in business and commercial law and related litigation.

Vic Lane is the manager of easement stewardship and forestry for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC). After graduating with a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from MSU in 1999, Vic worked at both MDNR and Little Traverse Conservancy before taking a position with GTRLC in 2003. In addition to overseeing GTRLC's conservation easement stewardship activities on 194 properties, he also plans and coordinates forest management activities on several fee owned lands.

Rob Levin practices law in Portland, Maine, specializing in land conservation. He represents a variety of land trusts and landowners, and has spoken and written extensively on land conservation issues. Since 2005, Rob has written and updated Land Conservation Case Law Summaries for the Land Trust Alliance.

Konrad Liegel is a solo practitioner in Seattle, Washington. Konrad is a graduate of Carleton College and Cornell Law School (cum laude), and a former partner and associate of K&L Gates LLP and its legacy firm of Preston Gates Ellis for over two decades. He has been listed among the Best Lawyers in America (Best Lawyers' 2013 Lawyer of the Year Environmental Law-Seattle). He serves on the Conservation Defense Advisory Council of The Land Trust Alliance. Konrad advises families, individuals, non-profit entities, businesses and municipalities on conservation, land use, environmental, real estate and charitable organization matters, including acquisition and management of large family estates, land use permitting, environmental compliance, charitable giving requirements, family foundation requirements, open space and property taxation, and cultural and natural resource preservation and restoration. He has worked with private landowners and land conservation organizations to preserve and steward a wide range of property, from small family parcels and culturally significant landscapes to large forests, mountains, islands, ranches and waterfront estates. He has formed and advised dozens of charitable organizations, and is counsel to a number of land trusts in the Pacific Northwest. His experience regularly involves the drafting and negotiation of conservation easements, and their occasional modification.

Jim Phillippi is on the board of directors of The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. Jim has specialized in real estate, construction, and banking law since 1981. He is a Director with the 30-lawyer western regional law firm of Knapp, Petersen & Clarke, and PC where he founded its real estate practice, allowing the firm to expand its insurance-based practice areas into real estate, title and title insurance fields. His practice covers a wide range of real estate issues, transactions and disputes, including land use and construction matters, as well as a broad variety of real estate transactions and a multitude of business and lending arrangements in the real estate industry. As a result, his practice involves formation of and advice to a variety of business organizations, including corporations, general partnerships, and joint ventures. His practice intersects regularly with the insurance coverage practice of his firm and that the firm's subsidiary, "KPC Legal Audit," a legal cost containment firm that establishes billing guidelines and reviews legal billings in litigated matters. He is admitted to practice before each of the federal district courts in California and is a member of the Commercial and Construction and Large and Complex Case Panels of the American Arbitration Association.

Leslie Ratley-Beach is the conservation defense director for the Land Trust Alliance. Previously, she was stewardship director for the Vermont Land Trust, leading the program responsible for more than 1400 conservation easements on over 465,000 acres of land with more 1300 landowners. Leslie is also the author of Alliance curriculum on conservation easement management and a course reviewer and pilot instructor.

Bill Silberstein is a partner at Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP, a Denver, Colorado law firm. In the past 30 years, Bill has built a land conservation practice with a national reputation for excellence. He has represented landowners and conservation organizations in hundreds of conservation easement transactions and in more than 30 IRS audits of conservation easements. Bill helped the Forbes family create a conservation easement for half of its ranch in the San Luis Valley. More than 80,000 acres were included in the easement, the largest in Colorado. Bill is counsel to Colorado Open Lands and the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, as well as a frequent lecturer and author on conservation easements and protective developments.

Carl Silverstein is the executive director of Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in North Carolina. Previously, Carl was an attorney with the Seattle law firm of Riddell, Williams, and Bullitt & Walkinshaw where he focused on general civil litigation. Mr. Silverstein clerked for Judge Jerome Farris, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit and U.S. District Judge Barbara Rothstein in the Western District of Washington, Seattle WA. Since 2000, he has led the Conservancy in protecting more than 50,000 acres of high priority sites in North Carolina and Tennessee, through land and conservation easement acquisitions in nationally significant locations. He worked with local governments and community leaders to protect surplus municipal watersheds from development; partnered with The Conservation Fund and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to protect the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork tract; and led in a successful 2 year lawsuit to defend a conservation easement adjoining the nationally significant Shining Rock Wilderness. Additionally, he led the Conservancy in raising a multimillion dollar endowment and other leadership details for a successful accredited land trust.

Julie Turrini was an attorney in Sacramento, CA law firms before joining The Nature Conservancy, where she was senior attorney for their California Program. She joined Resources Law Group in Sacramento where she focuses on conservation financing, land transactions and conservation philanthropy, with special emphasis on PRI's.