

2015 Fifth Symposium on Advanced Legal Topics in Land Conservation

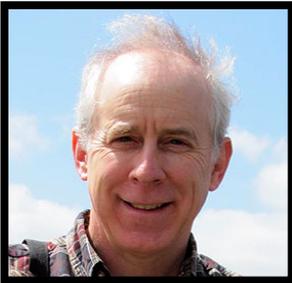
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FACULTY BIOS



Jonathan Blum is counsel in the Nonprofit Practice Group at Polsinelli (TX) and an adjunct professor at the SMU Dedman School of Law. Prior to his return to private practice, Jonathan was the executive director and general counsel for the David Nathan Meyerson Foundation, where he oversaw the administration, legal and tax compliance of the Foundation. He also served as the general counsel for 2M Companies, Inc. Jonathan provided legal guidance for 2M's investments and transactions and managed the insurance function. Prior to joining 2M, Jonathan was the general counsel of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and oversaw the organization's legal department, which includes guiding the international headquarters and its more than 120 Affiliates in securing responsible partnerships with corporations and partners. He had lead functional responsibility for legal, risk management and internal audit matters. The *Dallas Business Journal* named Jonathan as a "Rising Star" in its 2009 Corporate Counsel Awards and 2004 "Pro Bono Attorney of the Year" by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, a joint program of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. Jonathan was instrumental in establishing the Lend-a-Lawyer program with Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. He graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law. Jonathan also earned a bachelor's degree with special honors from the University of Texas.



Andrew Dana is an attorney with Conservation Law Associates (MT). He is a real-property and transactional attorney who represents land trusts, primarily in Montana and the Northern Rockies, including The Montana Land Reliance, Five Valleys Land Trust, the Bitter Root Land Trust, the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Teton Regional Land Trust, and the Montana Association of Land Trusts. He received the Montana Land Reliance's 2010 Conservation Award and is recognized as a top attorney in the United States on conservation easements and private land trusts. He consults nationally and is a frequent speaker on private land conservation law and is a founding member of the Land Trust Alliance's Conservation Defense Advisory Council. He has a law degree from Stanford Law School, and holds degrees in geography from the University of Washington and Middlebury College. His law practice focuses on land conservation law, and it has evolved over the past two decades from representation of landowners to representation of many land trusts across Montana, almost exclusively. His interest in the practice of conservation law arises from a long-standing admiration for Montana's ranchers and farmers and their deeply held commitment to land stewardship. With his brothers, he also owns a working ranch on the Yellowstone River that is protected by a conservation easement, which fortunately allows fly fishing.



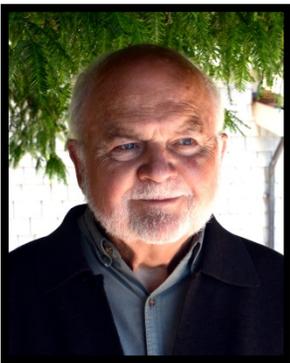
Joseph Dellapenna is a professor of law at Villanova University School of Law (PA). Joseph has practiced, taught, and written about water at law schools in the United States and abroad for 46 years, including selection as a Fulbright Professor three times. He teaches regularly at the University of Macau Faculty of Law and holds an appointment as an adjunct professor at the University of South Australia. He represented the Connecticut Water Works Association in *City of Waterbury v. Town of Washington*, 260 Conn. 506, 802 A.2d 1102 (2002), persuading the Connecticut Supreme Court to reinterpret Connecticut water law. He is a director of the Model Water Code Project of the American Society of Civil Engineers and served as Rapporteur of the Water Resources Committee of the International Law

Association. He led the drafting of the *Appropriative Rights Model Water Code* and the *Regulated Riparian Model Water Code*, and supervised the preparation of *Model Agreements for Sharing and Use of Transboundary Waters* and *Model Water Regulations for Administration and Trading in Humid Areas*. He chairs the Water Regulatory Standards Committee and has chaired the Standards Development Council of the Environment and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He holds a bachelor's degree with distinction from the University of Michigan, a law degree *cum laude* from the Detroit College of Law, an LL.M. in public international and comparative law from the George Washington University, and an LL.M. (environmental law) from Columbia University.



Christian Freitag is executive director of Sycamore Land Trust (IN), a position he has held for 15 years, and is an Indiana native son. Christian is also an attorney, having worked previously for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, and as a law clerk for Chief Justice Randall Shepard of the Indiana Supreme Court. He graduated from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and passed the Indiana State Bar in 1997. Christian holds a doctorate from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where his research focused on the implementation of federal environmental laws in public land management agencies such as the National Park Service and US Forest Service. Christian holds a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. He also previously worked with the Powder River Basin Resource Council, was selected as a National Fellow with the Environmental

Leadership Program, and has also been recognized as a Distinguished Hoosier by Governor Mitch Daniels. At TEDxBloomington, Christian spoke about rethinking perpetuity by embracing a new land ethic that includes a different scale of time. He lives in the hills outside of Bloomington with his wife and two Labrador retrievers.



Keith Gerrard is board president for San Juan Preservation Trust (WA) and Of Counsel Perkins Coie LLP. Keith is in his second term as president of the San Juan Preservation Trust. He is a trial lawyer and was a partner for more than 40 years with the Perkins Coie law firm where he is presently senior counsel. During his years of law practice he tried or litigated cases throughout the United States. His most recent case was a matter insured by Terrafirma which involved the owner of a B&B who cut trees on SJPT property to improve his view. His insurer paid \$100,000 to settle the litigation. Keith has represented manufacturers in relation to product liability and aviation-related litigation. He has been responsible for overseeing the defense of The Boeing Company for more than 25 years. Among the clients he has represented are Boeing, General Motors, Honeywell, Raytheon,

Martin-Baker Ltd., Turbomeca, Messier Dowty, Bombardier/deHavilland, The Coleman Company, Ingersoll-Rand and Bristol Myers. Keith is an honors graduate of Harvard Law School. He was elected a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, is listed in numerous professional associations and has served on the board of directors of several organizations including the Seattle Symphony and the Museum of Flight.



Catherine DelCastillo Howell is a senior attorney for The Nature Conservancy (TX), and has been with the global conservation organization since 1999. Catherine provides general legal and real estate services to the Conservancy, and also provides guidance on oil and gas matters and serves as chair of the organization's Energy and Minerals legal practice team and North America Energy Pipeline Team. She is a frequent presenter on conservation easements, oil and gas issues on conservation lands, government grants, and land acquisition. Catherine is an honors graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, where she was also an editor of the Texas Law Review and a director of the Legal Research Board. She began her legal career in private practice specializing in real estate and corporate matters, after which she became an internal auditor for an international relief and

development organization. She began her legal career at Baker Botts law firm, where she practiced in the areas of corporate and real estate law. She then joined an international relief and development organization as an internal auditor, reviewing humanitarian relief programs around the world. She then returned to Austin and became the executive director of Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas, a local nonprofit organization providing free legal services to low-income Texans. At the Conservancy, Catherine provides legal services to the Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas chapters, and is a frequent presenter on government grants, land acquisition, and conservation easements.



Rob Levin is an attorney at the Law Office of Robert H. Levin (ME). Rob has managed a solo law practice specializing in land conservation and nonprofit organizations since 2002. He has consulted for the Land Trust Alliance and has advised land trusts in several states. Rob has spoken at many conferences, including the Land Trust Alliance Rally and the Maine Land Trust Network Conference, and has written several papers on conservation issues in *Tax Notes*, the Land Trust Alliance's *Exchange*, and NYU's *Environmental Law Journal*. Rob has served as co-counsel and principal amicus brief drafter on precedent setting cases in Massachusetts and Maine. Rob graduated from Haverford College in 1996 and from New York University Law School in 2001. After law school, he served for one year as a judicial clerk to Magistrate Judge John Facciola at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Rob and his wife Sarah walked to Maine from Maryland in the Fall of 2002 for their honeymoon. In the Spring and Summer of 2012, Rob, Sarah, and their 5-year-old daughter bicycled a 2,001-mile loop around Maine, Atlantic Canada, and Quebec. Rob serves as a volunteer board member of Portland Trails and the Friends School of Portland and is a founding member of the Land Trust Alliance's Conservation Defense Advisory Council.



Ginny Moore is executive director of the Kansas Land Trust (KLT), a community based land trust that has conserved close to 23,000 acres of natural habitat, open space and productive farm and ranch lands in Kansas. An environmental lawyer by training, she brings to the land trust over 20 years of experience in environmental law, environmental protection and natural resource planning. She began her career with five years at the U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Regional Counsel, after which she was in private practice in Kansas City. Ginny is an expert in all areas of environmental law, environmental policy and natural resource conservation with considerable experience in the nonprofit arena, including both volunteer and professional experience in nonprofit management and governance. Previously she was environmental manager at Mid-America Regional Council and executive

director at the Blue River Watershed Association. As executive director of KLT, she manages the business and operations of the land trust, and provides legal expertise and oversight. She is passionate about thoughtfully integrating open space and natural areas into the built environment as a critical strategy for protecting clean air, healthy waters and a high quality of life for the people of Kansas, now and in the future.



Lavonne Paden is director of the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority. She is a CPA and financial institutions consultant with over 30 years' experience. From 1984 through 1990, Lavonne was the vice president and controller of the Acacia Group, a \$1 billion diversified financial services company. In 1990, she took a two-year professional fellowship with the General Accounting Office assisting Congress with oversight of the financial services industry, and from 1993 through 1999, Lavonne consulted for regional and national financial firms. In 1999, Lavonne helped to author West Virginia's Voluntary Farmland Protection Act. She has been active in her Eastern Panhandle home county, Berkeley County, serving on the Berkeley County Planning Commission, the Berkeley County Source Water Protection committee, and the Berkeley County Farmland Protection Board.

Lavonne worked from 2003 through 2006 under a Canaan Valley Institute–NRCS–WV Department of Agriculture Cooperation agreement to assist West Virginia counties with their Farmland Protection Boards and Programs. In January 2007, Lavonne became the first director of the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority. In 2013 the West Virginia Land Trust named her Special Places Guardian of the Year for her demonstrated leadership in advancing land conservation through direct involvement with the land trust movement. Lavonne Paden is often referred to as the heart and soul of the West Virginia Farmland Protection program. Lavonne has overseen the conservation of approximately 20,000 acres of agricultural land in the state with 18 counties with complete, functioning, funded programs.



Molly Peters-Stanley is director of Forest Trends' Ecosystem Marketplace, where she coordinates the publications, outreach, team and resources required to publish free environmental market intelligence for carbon, water and biodiversity interventions. She has led the development of numerous publications, including the *State of the Voluntary Carbon Markets*, *State of the Forest Carbon Markets*, and World Bank's *State and Trends of the Carbon Markets* reports, from 2009-2014. Molly has presented Ecosystem Marketplace intelligence to audiences worldwide and convened and advised stakeholders ranging from multinational corporations to national governments to support the development of robust climate programs.

Previously, she analyzed voluntary and compliance carbon markets in South Australia's Department of Premier and Cabinet Climate Change office, and holds a master's degree in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University.



Leslie Ratley-Beach is conservation defense director for the Land Trust Alliance (VT). Leslie joined The Land Trust Alliance as its first Conservation Defense Director in August 2007. She led the effort that created the first ever national conservation defense liability insurance program (Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC), unique in the world charitable risk pool. She continues to coordinate the delivery of services to Terrafirma. She also led the team that instituted the Alliance's national conservation defense initiative and directs the Conservation Defense Network of leading conservation experts. She has authored articles, national newsletters, numerous case studies and fact sheets and an Alliance curriculum and has peer reviewed numerous conservation publications. Leslie speaks on conservation nationally, leading symposia, webinars, workshops and

seminars. Previously, Leslie worked with the Vermont Land Trust for almost 13 years. She was stewardship director leading the department responsible for more than 1430 conservation easements on over 470,000 acres of land with more 1200 landowners and a staff of 9. Prior to that she was project counsel with Vermont Land Trust where she closed, drafted and helped negotiate more than 600 conservation easements. Leslie has a law degree from Boston University and practiced real estate law for nine years in Boston before joining the Vermont Land Trust in 1994. Leslie has bachelor's degrees from University of Oregon in journalism and political science and is a native of the Cascade Mountain region of California.



Philip Tabas is vice president and special advisor for the North American Conservation Region for The Nature Conservancy (VA) He served as the Conservancy's general counsel from 2003 to 2013. He has also held a range of legal and non-legal positions at the Conservancy in the areas of land protection, government relations, compatible economic development and conservation planning. Philip has been with the Conservancy for 34 years and has been involved in numerous private land conservation and compatible economic development projects, particularly involving the use of conservation easements in the United States and other countries. He has also worked to secure tax policy and legislation changes for conservation at the US Federal and state levels of government and in

other countries. Previously, he practiced law with a private law firm, worked as an attorney for a government water resources management agency and was an attorney with an environmental consulting firm. Philip holds a bachelor's degree in English from Pennsylvania State University, a law degree from the George Washington University Law School, a master's degree in land use planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and an LLM in tax law from Boston University Law School. He is an author of *Comprehensive Planning and the Environment*, published by Abt Books; a member of the board of The Potomac Conservancy; and he teaches a summer course entitled "Ecosystem Conservation Strategies" at Vermont Law School.



Tim Seifert is executive director for San Juan Preservation Trust (WA). During his tenure, the organization has grown into one of the most prolific land conservation groups in the country, now ranked in the top 2% in number of properties protected among over 1,700 land trusts and a nationally accredited land trust. Prior to joining the Preservation Trust, he worked for 15 years in the forest products and environmental consulting industries in international management and senior leadership roles including as vice president, International & Marketing at Fox River Paper Company, International Sales Manager and Product Manager at Simpson Paper Company. Tim holds an MBA degree from Duke University and a bachelor's degree in forestry and land use planning from the University of

Washington. A third generation resident of the San Juans, his family has owned a cabin on Waldron Island for over 50 years, and his grandfather served on the Preservation Trust's original board of trustees. A group of island residents started The Preservation Trust in 1979 to ensure that the unique island culture remained intact. He divides his time between Seattle and a remote outer island in the San Juan Islands of Washington State.



Bill Silberstein is an attorney for Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP (CO). Bill has built a land conservation practice that has a national reputation for excellence in his 30 years of experience and is recognized as one of the nation's preeminent experts" on conservation easements. He has represented landowners and conservation organizations in hundreds of conservation easement transactions and in over 30 IRS audits of conservation easements. Bill helped the Forbes family create a conservation easement for its ranch in the San Luis Valley. Over 80,000 acres were included in the easement, the largest in Colorado. Bill also represents clients in a wide variety of real estate developments, purchases, sales, leasing and financing transactions for ski resorts, office buildings, hotel

properties, retail shopping centers, ranches and rural recreational properties throughout the Rocky Mountain states. He has served as developers' counsel for many brownfield developments and transit oriented developments. The breadth of his practice allows Bill to assist property owners who are pursuing either development or preservation objectives. He helps clients achieve an appropriate balance between development and conservation that is sensitive to economic development in the region and quality of life that is so important to the regional economy. Bill has served on the board of the Land Trust Alliance.



W. William Weeks is director of the Conservation Law Center (IN). The Center provides legal counsel without charge to conservation organizations, works to improve conservation law and policy, and offers law students clinical experience in the practice of law and the profession's public service tradition. The Center works on the law of conservation easements, threats to species and ecological systems, protection of high quality aquatic systems, and representation of land trusts. Prior to the founding of the Center, he practiced law and represented clients in natural resource conservation matters in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. Bill has also worked with The Nature Conservancy as state director, director of the Center for Compatible Economic Development, chief operating officer, and executive vice

president. He is an adjunct professor of law and director of the Conservation Law Clinic at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He is the author of *Beyond the Ark* (Island Press, 1996) as well as numerous publications relating to conservation of biodiversity and conservation easement law. He is a frequent lecturer on conservation law. In 2011 and 2012, he served as chair of the Indiana Sustainable Natural Resources Task Force. He is a graduate of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law—Bloomington (1979, *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif).



Jack Wittman, PhD is principal hydrogeologist for Intera (IN). Jack has been working as a groundwater scientist and hydrologist since the early 1980s. After several years in state and tribal government regulating mining and nuclear waste isolation, he conducted research applying new modeling techniques to well field design. In addition to municipal well field design and optimization, Jack has decades of experience related to industrial water supplies, cooling water for power plants, and irrigation systems. His research includes analysis of the regional impacts of climate change on groundwater availability and the use of new tools to evaluate saturated flow near high-capacity well fields adjacent to streams (river bank filtration). Jack is one of the co-inventors of a patented method for simulating radial collector wells and he has published papers related to levee seepage, collector wells, and contaminant risk analysis for drinking water wells. In 2006, Jack was named to the Indiana Governors' Drought Task Force and he continues to advise utilities and regulatory agencies on water supply planning and policy. Prior to joining INTERA, Jack was the national director of geosciences for Layne Christensen where he lead a team of scientists and engineers that specialized in well field design and impact analysis.