

NSU College of Law Environmental Seminar

Changing Climates, Sea Levels, and Species: Legal & Policy Responses for South Florida

Friday, April 8, 2016

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

NSU Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography
Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center Auditorium



Welcome Address by Dr. Richard Dodge, Dean of Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography at Nova Southeastern University

Panel Number 1: Economic, Real Estate and Risk Management Legal Issues.

Mitch Chester, Esq.: Sea level rise financial adaption from the legal and economic perspectives, including law, insurance and mortgages.

Keith Rizzardi, Esq. St. Thomas Univ. Law School: Private sector ethics; Risk of fraud and malpractice; Hazard mitigation assistance and relocation assistance.



Mitchell A. Chester, Esq. is a civil trial lawyer practicing in South Florida. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and an AV rated attorney. In practice for over 36 years, he is deeply concerned about developing legal, social and monetary adaptation solutions for communities threatened by swelling oceans. Mr. Chester is editor of RaisingFields.org (how agriculture can adapt to sea level rise (SLR) and increased heat), SLRAmerica.org (which explores legal and practical financial issues pertaining to sea level rise), FinancialAdaptation.org (monetary tools for sea level rise), Sea Level Rise Radio.com (a podcast which discusses topics to examine key societal issues and opportunities presented by encroaching waters) and MySeaLevelRise.org (SLR issues). His focus is on people, including homeowners, renters, business owners and agricultural interests as we jointly prepare for altered coastlines. He is one of the directors of the CLEO Institute, which educates government leaders and students in Southeastern Florida about sea level rise and climate issues. He helped initiate the American Board of Trial Advocates Fort Lauderdale Chapter annual scholarship for NSU law students and has served on the Chapter's Board of Directors. In January, 2016, he was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Fort Lauderdale ABOTA Chapter.



Keith W. Rizzardi joined the St. Thomas Law faculty in 2011 after years of government service as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental and Natural Resources Division and as a managing attorney for the South Florida Water Management District. An accomplished litigator, he has argued cases before the Florida Supreme Court and in Federal district and circuit courts from coast to coast. He also has served as Chairman of the U.S. Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee.

An active member of the Florida Bar, and a Board Certified Specialist in State & Federal Administrative Practice, Professor Rizzardi twice chaired The Florida Bar Government Lawyer Section, and served on the bar's ethics and professionalism committees. His scholarship in legal ethics and lawyer regulation qualified him as an expert witness in a malpractice matter. He volunteers as an ombudsman for the U.S. Department of Defense, helping military service members and their civilian companies to resolve employment related disputes.

A graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A. 1991), University of Florida (J.D. 1994) and Florida Atlantic University (M.P.A. 1998), Professor Rizzardi has authored nearly two dozen articles and book chapters. He has shared his education and experience internationally with students at the UNESCO Water Institute in the Netherlands and at the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing. His areas of teaching and scholarship include administrative law, environmental law, negotiation, professional responsibility and regulatory compliance.

Panel Number 2: Panel Two - Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management Issue.

Shannon Estenoz, Director, Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives U.S. Department of the Interior:
Responding to the Threat of Invasive Exotic Species

David White, Esq.: Marine Protected Areas



Shannon A. Estenoz is a fifth generation Key West native. She holds degrees in International Affairs as well as Civil Engineering from Florida State University. Shannon's Everglades career spans nineteen years during which she has been an advocate for the restoration and protection of the Everglades. Shannon launched her Everglades'-career as the Executive Director of the Environmental and Land Use Law Center. In 1997 she joined the World Wildlife Fund as its Everglades field representative and would later become its Everglades Program Director and later served as the Sun Coast Regional Director of the National Parks Conservation Association. Shannon also served three terms as the National Co-Chair of the Everglades Coalition.

In 2007, Florida Governor Charlie Crist appointed Shannon to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District where she served as Vice Chair of the Board, Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Commission, Founding Chair of the Broward Water Resources Task Force, and member of the Broward County Water Advisory Board.

In 2010 Shannon was appointed by the US Department of the Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar, as the Department's Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives where she coordinates the Department's restoration efforts as well as serves as the Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

Throughout Shannon's career she has been recognized for her contributions to Everglades Restoration. Most recently she was received the 2009 George Barley Conservationist of the Year Award from the Everglades Coalition, the 2010 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Environmental Award from Friends of the Everglades, and the 2010 Champion of the Everglades Award from Audubon of Florida.



Mr. David White is an attorney and consultant in St Petersburg, Florida, focusing on public interest environmental law. Mr. White most recently served as the Director of the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Gulf of Mexico Restoration Campaign, where he advocated for ecosystem-scale restoration projects to address long-term impacts to coastal habitats, focusing on implementation of the RESTORE Act to fund restoration of estuaries and ecosystems along the Gulf Coast. From 2000 to 2009 he was Director of Ocean Conservancy's Southeast Atlantic Regional Office, where he was responsible for conservation work on fisheries management, marine wildlife conservation, and habitat protection issues. Previously, Mr. White served as Regional Counsel for NWF in Atlanta, Georgia, where he litigated cases under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and other federal environmental statutes. Mr. White received his J.D., MS in Wildlife Ecology, and a BS in Zoology, all from the University of Florida.

Panel Number 3: What Scientists Want Attorneys to Know.

Song Gao, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chemistry, Nova Southeastern University

Professor Joel A. Mintz, Shepard Broad College of Law, Nova Southeastern University



Song Gao, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chemistry, Nova Southeastern University Dr. Song Gao received his Ph.D. in Analytical/Environmental Chemistry from the University of Washington in 2002. He then performed postdoctoral research on environmental chemistry/engineering in California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Afterwards, he became an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and then Nova Southeastern University, and has been an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Nova since 2012. His research interests include atmospheric chemistry, air pollution mechanisms, water pollution and remediation, and science-based environmental policies. He has published ~ 30 peer-reviewed papers in international journals, three of which have each been cited over 200 times worldwide. He was a co-recipient of the Alan Berman Research Publications Award from Naval Research Laboratory, Department of the Navy. He has recently received grants from and served on review panels for the National Science Foundation. He is currently serving on the nominations and program committees for the US Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, and as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences (Springer).



Joel A. Mintz is a Professor of Law at NSU Law Center, where he has taught courses related to environmental law since 1983. He earned his B.A. from Columbia College, Columbia University, his J.D. from NYU School of Law and his LL.M. and J.S.D. degrees from Columbia Law School. Before entering academia, Professor Mintz was, for six years, an enforcement attorney and chief attorney with the EPA in Chicago and Washington, D.C. Widely viewed as one of the nation's leading legal academic experts on environmental enforcement, Joel Mintz has testified before the U.S. Congress on the subject and published three books and numerous book contributions and law review articles regarding it. Professor Mintz is also the author or co-author of six other books regarding environmental law, sustainability, and municipal debt financing, and numerous law review articles, book chapters, op-ed articles and blog pieces. He is a recipient of several awards for his work as an attorney, teacher and scholar, a member scholar of the Center for Progressive Reform, an elected member of the American Law Institute, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Additionally, Mintz currently serves as the president of the board of the Everglades Law Center, a non-profit public interest environmental law firm.

Panel Number 4: Government Leadership Initiatives.

Erin Deady, Esq.: Climate & Sea Level Rise Issues for local government planning.

Dr. Nicholas G. Aumen, Regional Science Advisor, U.S. Geological Survey: Ecosystem and Water Management System Restoration

Jim Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Miami-Dade County: Building Resilience within Greater Miami and the Beaches

Jennifer Jurado, PhD, Dir., Env. Planning & Community Resilience Div., Broward County: Resiliency in Broward County and the S.E. Fla. Regional Climate Compact



Erin L. Deady, P.A. specializes in sustainability, climate, environmental, land use, water law and securing grants for clients. Clients include local governments, Special Districts, private sector, agricultural and Tribal entities specializing in climate planning issues, Gulf of Mexico & Everglades Restoration, PACE implementation, code development and all types of land use issues as well as Federal and state litigation on energy, water resources management and environmental regulatory matters. Ms. Deady previously served as Environmental Counsel to Audubon of Florida and has worked for the Village of Wellington, the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection and the SFWMD.



Nick Aumen is Regional Science Advisor for the Southeast Region of the US Geological Survey, and oversees the Greater Everglades Priority Ecosystem Sciences Program. His former positions were aquatic ecologist for Everglades National Park and Research Director at the South Florida Water Management District in West Palm Beach. Nick received his B.S. and M.S. in biology at the University of West Florida, and his Ph.D. in microbial ecology at Oregon State University. After finishing his Ph.D., he took a faculty position in biology at the University of Mississippi, and was a tenured Associate Professor of Biology until 1991, when he returned to Florida. Nick holds courtesy faculty appointments at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Florida. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Interamerican Water Resources Network, and helped organize four triennial Dialogues on Water Management (Miami, FL, Panama City, Panama, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, and Medellin, Colombia). Nick served five years on the national Board of Directors (served two terms as national Vice-President, one term as the national Treasurer) of the Sierra Club, a 120-year-old, 750,000-member US conservation NGO.



James F. Murley serves as Assistant Dean for External Affairs, College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs and Director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, Florida Atlantic University. Governor Charlie Crist appointed Jim as the first Chair of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. Jim also serves as Vice Chair of the Miami-Dade County Climate Change Advisory Task Force and is a member and chair of the Build Environment Committee of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force.

Jim is Chair of the Sustainability Committee of the Urban Land Institute's Southeast Florida/Caribbean District Council and was recently appointed a member of Mayor of Miami-Dade County's new Sustainability Advisory Board. Jim is a former Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs and Executive Director of 1,000 Friends of Florida. Jim is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Jim graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio with a BA in History and George Washington University Law School. He is a graduate of Class IX Leadership Florida.



Dr. Jennifer Jurado is the Director of Broward County's Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division where she oversees regional climate resiliency initiatives, county-wide water resource policy and planning, environmental monitoring, shoreline protection and marine resources programs. Since joining the County in 2002, Jennifer has been a key figure in the advancement of multi-jurisdictional initiatives focused on water management, climate adaptation efforts, and the integration of climate policy in comprehensive planning. Of particular note has been her role in analyzing and planning for future sea level rise in the built environment. She played a lead role in the organization and advancement of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, a four-county collaboration focused on regional climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Dr. Jurado was also a major contributor to President's State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Dr. Jurado earned her Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami.