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38th Annual Conference on Environmental Law: The Next Generation of Environmental Law

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38th Annual Conference on Environmental Law: The next generation of environmental law

BY JAMES R. MAY

We live in astonishing times. Change is in the air, affecting every nook and cranny of environmental, energy, and resources law. Next generation issues abound. The Obama administration has new policies and appointees. Congress has new members and chairpersons of key environmental, energy, and resource committees. States have new governors and legislators, with new environmental initiatives and objectives. The national and world economy hovers like storm clouds on the horizon. It's hard to know what it all means and how it will influence law, policy, and practice in the coming years. With so many options, it's also hard to know where to spend your professional legal education time and resources efficiently and economically.

Not to worry. Answers can be found at the 38th Annual Conference on Environmental Law, Mar. 12–15, 2009, in breathtaking Keystone, Colorado, presented by the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources.

This is the nation's—if not the world's—leading professional environmental law conference, regularly attended by hundreds of top environmental lawyers, litigators, policymakers, public servants, regulators, engineers, consultants, scholars, and elected officials.

This year's theme, "The Next Generation of Environmental Law," reflects changes at the presidential, congressional, and state levels that are certain to transform the field. With so much changing, this is an important conference not to miss.

The planning committee has designed an extensive program that aims to be worth your money and your while. It includes four plenary, twelve breakout, and one hot topics sessions, with three special guest speakers and more than seventy top-tier panelists discussing important developments in climate change, energy policy, water quantity and quality, species loss, air emissions, natural resources, impact assessment, and land use and remediation law. Ten complementary technical roundtable presentations will cover associated intersections of law, science, technology, and engineering.

The Keynote speaker is world renowned and award-winning energy expert Dr. Amory B. Lovins, co-founder, chairman, and chief scientist of the Mountain Institute, who will deliver *Profitable Solutions to Oil, Climate, and Proliferation*. Other special guest speakers include award-winning children's author and filmmaker Lynne Cherry; environmental author, humorist, and television personality Jeff Yeager; and author and educator John Dernbach. We'll also have a special guest speaker to discuss priorities, challenges, and opportunities facing the Obama administration. Additional special events include networking

receptions, *Meet the Authors*, and a *Section Gala Celebration and Sendoff*, celebrating four decades of the Annual Conference in Colorado with dinner and live music.

Plenary sessions will address the landscape facing the Obama administration and the new Congress, including *Are We Moving Now? Climate Change under a New President and New Congress*; *New Tools, Higher Stakes: Next Generation Issues in Civil and Criminal Environmental Enforcement*; *The Next Generation of Environmental Law*; and *An Ethical Storm: Tension Between Advocacy and Ethics*. Breakout sessions will address next generation issues in global climate change and energy, climate change federalism, constitutional issues in climate change, chemical management reform, biofuels and nanotechnology, carbon capture and storage, natural resource damages, the global environmental economy, a Supreme court update, Clean Air Act decisions for the next EPA administrator, water-quality demands, and the next forty years of environmental impact assessment under NEPA.

Keystone is the perfect place to bring family while taking advantage of the premier educational sessions of the conference. There is something for everyone! You can enjoy winter activities, such as skiing and snowboarding, ice skating, snowshoeing, and sleigh rides. Or you can relax and enjoy the mountain views from your room or favorite watering hole or shop, ride in a gondola, or relax in the pool or spa. The Keystone Children's Center offers fun options for youth activities. In addition, friends and families are invited and welcome to attend both the Gala and featured speaking programs.

There's one more good reason to join us this year. This will be the last opportunity you will have to attend this conference in Keystone, Colorado, as it will move to Salt

Lake City, Utah in 2010.

Rooms book early. We encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible. The deadline for hotel reservations is Feb. 12, 2009. The conference pre-registration deadline is Feb. 12, 2009. For more about programming, lodging, airfare, and the rest of the program, see www.abanet.org/environ/keystone/.

This is sure to be a fun, important, and memorable meeting. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, please contact the Section office at environ@abanet.org or (312) 988-5724.

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