Historically, water law has been the province primarily of lawyers and policy makers in the arid western United States. In recent years, however, lawmakers in the eastern and midwestern United States have come to recognize the critical role that water management plays in securing a healthy and vibrant society over the long term.

In recognition of this development, The University of Toledo College of Law and its Legal Institute of the Great Lakes (LIGL) are proud to sponsor this 18th annual conference on national water issues.

The conference this year will address multiple issues that greatly impact the Great Lakes region.

Regional Water in Ohio
For decades, nearby communities have purchased treated water from the city of Toledo’s drinking-water plant pursuant to long-term contracts. Now, alternative arrangements are being considered, including a “regional water” approach. This panel will discuss regionalization of water and sewer systems in Ohio, including statutory and contractual options, examples of regionalization, and insights into the Toledo area water situation and ballot question.

Regional Water Elsewhere
Regionalization of water and sewer systems beyond Ohio, in the Great Lakes region and nationally, will be discussed by this panel of experts. You will hear about the trend toward regionalization, the range of options available, some common issues, and case studies. The recently formed Great Lakes Water Authority in the Detroit area will be a particular focus, including evolution of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and relationships with customer communities, as well as current challenges related to water affordability and shut-offs.

More Hot Topics
These panelists will address three developing and important water law topics: (1) the interface between the rights of private landowners and recreational paddlers on rivers, creeks and streams; (2) the legal battle against algae in Lake Erie, featuring an update on recent legislative, administrative and judicial developments; and (3) when a point source discharge of pollutants to groundwater violates the federal Clean Water Act, including a discussion of circuit court cases decided earlier this year.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018

8:00 A.M.  CHECK-IN FOR CLE REGISTRANTS

8:30 A.M.  WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
D. Benjamin Barros
Dean, The University of Toledo College of Law
Toledo, Ohio

8:45 A.M.  KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Darren Nichols
Executive Director
Great Lakes Commission
Ann Arbor, Michigan

9:15 A.M.  Panel 1: REGIONAL WATER IN OHIO
Moderator:
Prof. Kenneth Kilbert
The University of Toledo College of Law
Toledo, Ohio

Speakers:
Michael Beazley
Senior Policy Advisor
City of Toledo
Toledo, Ohio

Tim Brown
President
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
Toledo, Ohio

Rex Huffman
Attorney
Spitler Huffman
Rossford, Ohio

10:45 A.M.  BREAK

11:00 A.M.  Panel 2: REGIONAL WATER ELSEWHERE

12:30 P.M.  LUNCH

1:30 P.M.  Panel 3: MORE HOT TOPICS
Moderator:
Prof. Elizabeth McCuskey
The University of Toledo College of Law
Toledo, Ohio

Speakers:
Prof. Jennifer Jolly-Ryan
Northern Kentucky University
Chase School of Law
Highland Heights, Kentucky

Prof. Kenneth Kilbert
The University of Toledo College of Law
Toledo, Ohio

Gary Steinbauer
Attorney
Babst Calland
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

3:00 P.M.  CLOSING