

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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 U.S. 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 19th annual conference on national water issues.

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

Lake Erie Bill of Rights

Toledo residents earlier this year voted to amend the city charter to declare that Lake Erie has enforceable legal rights and that corporations and governments that violate those rights are subject to liability. The Lake Erie Bill of Rights is an innovative legal tool for protecting the lake from pollution, and it has attracted national and international attention, but the ordinance is being challenged in court, and its legality is questionable. This panel will feature both a supporter and a critic of this controversial “rights of nature” law, plus an explanation of why a special election was deemed necessary.

PFAS and Water Quality

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are chemicals that include PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and others. PFAS are found in water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products, fire-fighting foams, and many other products. These “forever chemicals” are persistent in the environment and accumulate in the human body, and there is growing evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health effects. This panel of experts will delve into the water quality problems resulting from PFAS and the responses from states, the federal government and non-governmental organizations.

More Hot Topics

These panelists will address three developing and important topics: (1) the proposed new rule defining “waters of the United States,” which seeks to narrow the jurisdictional reach of the federal Clean Water Act; (2) the H2Ohio investment for clean, safe water in Ohio, especially Lake Erie, by the administration of new Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine; and (3) the proposed new diversion of Lake Michigan water by the city of Racine, Wis., to outside the Great Lakes basin, which is testing the “straddling community” exception to the ban on diversions imposed by the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

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2801 W. Bancroft St.
Toledo, OH 43606-3390



THE 19TH ANNUAL Great Lakes Water Conference

Lake Erie Bill of Rights, PFAS, Plus More

FRIDAY, NOV. 8, 2019



COLLEGE OF LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO



THE 19TH ANNUAL Great Lakes Water Conference

Conference sponsored by:
The University of Toledo College of Law
and The University of Toledo College of Law
Legal Institute of the Great Lakes

FRIDAY, NOV. 8, 2019

8 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
Carrie Sowden

Archaeological Director
National Museum of the Great Lakes
Toledo, Ohio

9:15 A.M. PANEL 1: LAKE ERIE BILL OF RIGHTS

Moderator
Professor Kenneth Kilbert
The University of Toledo College of Law
Toledo, Ohio

Speakers
Jason Hill
Court Administrator
Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals
Toledo, Ohio

Terry Lodge
Attorney
Toledo, Ohio

Louis Tosi
Attorney
Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick
Toledo, Ohio

10:45 A.M. BREAK

11 A.M. PANEL 2: PFAS AND WATER QUALITY

Moderator
Professor Nicholas Schroeck
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
Detroit, Mich.

Speakers
Kristy Meyer
Associate Director
Freshwater Future
Columbus, Ohio

Professor Oday Salim
Director
Environmental Law &
Sustainability Clinic
University of Michigan Law School
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Steve Sliver
Executive Director
Michigan PFAS Action Response Team
Michigan Department of Environment,
Great Lakes, and Energy
Lansing, Mich.

12:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30 P.M. PANEL 3: MORE HOT TOPICS

Moderator
Professor Heidi Gorovitz Robertson
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
Cleveland State University
Cleveland, Ohio

Speakers
Joy Mulinex
Executive Director
Ohio Lake Erie Commission
Cleveland, Ohio

Professor David Strifling
Director, Water Law & Policy Initiative
Marquette University Law School
Milwaukee, Wis.

3 P.M. CLOSING



The conference will be held in
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO COLLEGE OF LAW
MCQUADE LAW AUDITORIUM
1825 WEST ROCKET DRIVE

4.5 HOURS OF CLE

Application has been made for Ohio CLE credit from the
Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal
Education for 4.5 hours of CLE credit including 0.0 hours
of professional conduct credit.

COST:
FREE to the public
\$75 for CLE

\$10 for box lunch
(You must pre-register by Tuesday, Nov. 5, for a box lunch.)

To register for CLE or a box lunch, go to:
utoledo.edu/law/academics/ligl/conferences

Credit card payments can be made online. Checks can be
made payable to The University of Toledo and sent to:

The University of Toledo College of Law
Attention: Maureen Dwyer
2801 W. Bancroft St., Mail Stop 507
Toledo, OH 43606-3390

For more information, call 419.530.2851
or visit our website at:
utoledo.edu/law/academics/ligl/conferences

The Legal Institute of the Great Lakes (LIGL)
is a multidisciplinary research center within the
College of Law. The institute supports research,
maintains publications, and sponsors conferences on legal,
economic, and social issues of importance to the
Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada.