Historically, water law has been the province primarily of lawyers and policymakers in the arid western United States. In recent years, however, lawmakers in the East and Midwest 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 fifth annual conference on national water issues. The focus this year is on questions rising out of varying visions of how to best take advantage of the region’s most treasured resource — as a setting for the development of alternative sources of energy, as a recreational destination for many and home for some, and as a resource that needs to be preserved and protected by the state and provincial governments that border its edges.

The first panel will address the promise and pitfalls of using the periphery of the Great Lakes as sites for the development of alternative sources of energy. Wind turbines have shown tremendous potential, but some are concerned about bird deaths as well as the impact of the turbines on the quality of life in surrounding communities. Nuclear power plants in proximity to the Great Lakes also pose environmental concerns that the region must grapple with.

The second panel will turn from the topic of alternative energy to the seemingly simple topic of strolls along the beach. The recent case Glass v. Goeckel, in which the Michigan Supreme Court’s ruling came down on the public access side, spawned a great deal of debate across the region as to how much private owners of beachfront property can limit the public’s access to the strip of land along the water.

Finally, the third panel will provide an update on the draft proposals for implementing the Annex 2001 commitments. The Annex was created in part as a response to growing concern over the prospect of large withdrawals being made from the Great Lakes for use in other parts of the country and of the world. It has been lauded as a necessary step in uniting the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces on a common water policy.
THE NATIONAL WATER CRISIS: ENERGY AND ACCESS FOR ALL?

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, NOVEMBER 18

8:30 AM  WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Interim Dean Beth Eisler and Professor of Law Phil Closius

9 AM  Panel 1
Promise and Pitfalls: Alternative Energy Sources Along the Great Lakes

MODERATOR:
Professor Mark Squillace
Director, Natural Resources Law Center
University of Colorado School of Law
Boulder, Colo.

SPEAKERS:
Larry Flowers
Principal and Team Leader, National Wind Technology Center
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Golden, Colo.

Jon W. Allan
Manager, New Generation
Consumers Energy Company
Jackson, Mich.

Susan Hlywa Topp, Esq.
Environmental Attorney, Topp Law PLC
Gaylord, Mich.

10:30 AM  BREAK

10:45 AM  Panel 2: Not Just a Walk on the Beach: Public Access v. Private Property Rights

MODERATOR:
Professor Robert H. Abrams
Florida A & M University, College of Law
Orlando, Fla.

SPEAKERS:
Pamela Bush, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff in Glass v. Goeckel
Harrsville, Mich.

Professor Chris Shafer
Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Lansing, Mich.

Tony Yankel
President, Ohio Lakefront Group
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

12:15 PM  LUNCH

1:30 PM  Panel 3
Update on the Annex: Access to Great Lakes Water Under the Proposed 2001 Agreements

MODERATOR:
Professor Noah Hall
Wayne State University Law School
Detroit, Mich.

SPEAKERS:
Sam Speck
Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Chair, The Great Lakes Commission
Columbus, Ohio

Kevin Wilson
Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Management Division for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Toronto, Ontario

Melissa Scanlan
Executive Director
Midwest Environmental Advocates Inc.
Madison, Wis.

3 PM  CLOSING

For more information, call 419.530.2712 or visit our Web site at www.utlaw.edu.

The Legal Institute of the Great Lakes (LIGL) is a multi-disciplinary research center within the College of Law. The institute supports research, maintains publications, and sponsors conferences on legal, economic and social issues of importance.