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 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 eighth annual conference on national water issues.

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

**Groundwater Rights (and Wrongs)**

Not only is groundwater a crucial source of water in the Great Lakes region, it also is a source of controversy. A proposed constitutional amendment has placed the rights to use, and the powers to manage, groundwater front and center in Ohio. This panel will provide scientific and legal context for understanding groundwater rights, use, management and dispute resolution.

**Transboundary Pollution**

The U.S. – Canada border does not stop pollutants from crossing. While multilateral institutions have had some success in developing solutions to transboundary pollution, a new trend is citizens using domestic courts to directly challenge transboundary pollution sources. A recently filed private prosecution in Ontario by a Canadian citizen against a Michigan power plant, alleging mercury air emissions from the plant have harmed Canadian fisheries and violated Canadian law, will serve as a case study by which the panel will explore this emerging trend.

**Implementing the Compact**

Finally, the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact has been ratified by all eight Great Lakes states and is nearing approval by Congress. So what’s next? The interstate Compact is designed to protect against diversion, and to promote conservation and wise management, of Great Lakes waters. This panel will highlight important issues the states are facing as they try to implement the Compact’s historic provisions.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008

8:00 a.m. CHECK-IN FOR CLE REGISTRANTS

8:30 a.m. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Dean Douglas E. Ray

8:45 a.m. KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Sam Speck
Commissioner
International Joint Commission
Washington, DC

9:15 a.m. PANEL 1: GROUNDWATER RIGHTS (AND WRONGS)
MODERATOR:
Professor Robert Abrams
Florida A&M University College of Law
Orlando, FL

SPEAKERS:
Professor James Martin-Hayden
The University of Toledo
Department of Environmental Sciences
Toledo, OH

Louis McMahon
Attorney
McMahon DeGulis LLP
Cleveland, OH

10:45 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m. PANEL 2: TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION
MODERATOR:
Professor Noah Hall
Wayne State University Law School
Detroit, MI

SPEAKERS:
Scott Edwards
Legal Director & Senior Attorney
Waterkeeper Alliance
New York, NY

Craig Parry
Attorney
Kitchener, Ontario

Joseph Polito
Attorney
Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn LLP
Detroit, MI

12:30 p.m. LUNCH

2:00 p.m. PANEL 3: IMPLEMENTING THE COMPACT
MODERATOR:
Professor Kenneth Kilbert
The University of Toledo College of Law
Toledo, OH

SPEAKERS:
Senator Patricia Birkholz
Michigan State Senate
24th District
Saugatuck, MI

Sean Logan
Director
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Columbus, OH

Sara Gosman
Attorney
National Wildlife Federation
Ann Arbor, MI

3:30 p.m. CLOSING

The conference will be held in
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO COLLEGE OF LAW AUDITORIUM

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 of CLE credit including 0.0 hours of Ethics, Substance Abuse and Professionalism.

COST:
FREE to the public
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$9 for box lunch (you must pre-register for a box lunch)

To register or for more information, call 419.530.2628 or send an e-mail to ann.elick@utoledo.edu.

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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.