

The Questions that Should be Asked: Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources in the Presidential Race

**Murrow Room
National Press Club**
529 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC

April 16, 2012
5:30 - 7:00PM

Environment, energy, and natural resource policies should figure prominently in the upcoming presidential election. Although many of the issues are controversial, the public still places environmental protection high on its list of priorities and energy security remains a goal of both parties. The Environmental Law Institute, a nationally recognized nonprofit association that provides research, education, and publications in the area of environmental law and policy, is working to develop the questions that should be asked of the Presidential candidates.

As a companion to our *Environmental Forum* article, which surveyed twelve major figures on what topics should be discussed in the presidential debates, we've invited five experts with broad policy experience to discuss their answers to a key question: "What questions should be asked of candidates in the presidential debates that will help us learn how they will confront these issues?"

Panel:
Dina Cappiello (Moderator)
John C. Cruden
Bob Deans
E. Donald Elliott
Kenneth P. Green
Jacqui Patterson

Dina Cappiello
National Environment Reporter,
Associated Press (moderator)

Dina Cappiello is the National Environmental Reporter for the Associated Press in Washington, where her beat encompasses the Environmental Protection Agency, offshore oil and gas drilling, nuclear energy, coal, and global warming policy. Cappiello has contributed to AP's coverage of the Gulf oil spill, international climate negotiations, and the Japan nuclear disaster, and is in charge of covering the intersection between politics and the environment in Congress and in national elections.

Prior to joining AP, Cappiello spent a decade covering energy and environmental issues at the *Times Union* in upstate New York, the *Houston Chronicle* in Texas, *Congressional Quarterly*, and the online subscription-based trade publication *ClimateWire*. She has appeared on the PBS *NewsHour*, NPR's *Living on Earth*, and C-SPAN's *Washington Journal* and *Newsmakers* programs.

Her investigative work into toxic air pollution in neighborhoods near refineries and chemical plants in Houston was a finalist for the Edward J. Meeman award in environmental reporting and won first place for investigative reporting from the Society of Environmental Journalists. Cappiello's work has also been recognized in numerous state and local journalism contests.

John C. Cruden
President,
Environmental Law Institute

John C. Cruden is the President of the Environmental Law Institute. Before coming to ELI in 2011, Cruden was, for over two decades, the career Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice. He has personally litigated and led settlement negotiations in numerous environmental cases, many with reported decisions. Prior to becoming Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Cruden was Chief of the Environmental Enforcement Section, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Before joining the DOJ, he was the Chief Legislative Counsel of the Army. After graduating from West Point, Cruden served in airborne, ranger, and Special Forces units before attending law school. Cruden is a Past President of the District of Columbia Bar, and a Past Chair of the ABA Section on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources. In 2010, he was listed by a national magazine as one of the top 500 lawyers in America. He has written and lectured extensively in the areas of environment, energy, and natural resources law.

Bob Deans
Associate Director of Communications,
Natural Resources Defense Council

Bob Deans started out in the news business when he was 10 years old, delivering his hometown paper, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. He spent nearly 30 years as a newspaper reporter, including a four-year stint as the chief Asia correspondent, based in Tokyo, for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and other Cox newspapers, and eight years

covering the White House. Deans is a former president of the White House Correspondents' Association.

Currently NRDC's associate director of communications, Deans is the author of the 2007 book, *The River Where America Began: A Journey Along the James* and co-author of *Clean Energy Common Sense*, and *In Deep Water: The Anatomy of a Disaster, The Fate of the Gulf, and Ending Our Oil Addiction*.

E. Donald Elliott
Professor (Adjunct) of Law,
Yale Law School

E. Donald Elliott is Professor (Adjunct) of Law at Yale Law School and a leading academic scholar, as well as practitioner, in the fields of administrative and environmental law. He has been on the Yale Law faculty since 1981 and currently teaches courses in environmental law, energy law, administrative law, and civil procedure. He is also a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of the international law firm, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, where he chairs the firm's worldwide Environment, Health and Safety Department.

From 1989 to 1991, Elliott served as Assistant Administrator and General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 1993, he was named to the first endowed chair in environmental law and policy at any major American law school, the Julien and Virginia Cornell Chair in Environmental Law and Litigation at Yale Law

School. From 2003-2009, he was a member of the National Academy of Sciences Board on Environmental

Studies and Toxicology, which advises the federal government on environmental issues. Elliott also testifies frequently in Congress on environmental issues.

He has served as a consultant on improving the relationship of law and science to the Federal Courts Study Committee, which was chartered by Congress to make recommendations for improving the federal courts, and to the Carnegie Commission for Law, Science and Government. He co-chaired the National Environmental Policy Institute's Committee on Improving Science at EPA.

Kenneth P. Green
Resident Scholar,
American Enterprise Institute

Kenneth P. Green has studied energy and energy-related environmental policy for nearly 20 years. An environmental scientist and policy analyst by training, Green's recent studies include the efficacy of green jobs programs, drivers of oil and gas prices, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the embedded energy costs in consumer goods, and resilient policies to address the risks of climate change.

He has just published his second supplemental textbook, *Abundant Energy*, a concise guide to energy and energy policy intended for a college audience. In addition, Green has testified before regulatory and legislative bodies at the local, state, and federal levels, including many times before the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. He was also a designated expert reviewer for two reports by the

United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Jacqui Patterson
Director, Environmental and Climate
Justice Program, NAACP

Jacqui Patterson is the Climate Justice Initiative Director for the NAACP. Her work on climate justice before engaging with the NAACP was through Women of Color United's participation in a Movement Generation for Change Ecology Justice Retreat and partnership with the Women's Environment and Development Organization on the "From Katrina to Copenhagen Initiative." She recently facilitated a partnership between the NAACP and Women of Color United to engage in the "Women of Color for Climate Justice Road Tour" to uplift stories of differential impact, community local self-reliance, and community resistance of women of color and communities of color.

A Chicago native born to a Jamaican immigrant father and an African American mother from Mississippi, Patterson attended Boston University, gaining a B.A. in Special Education while working in the Boston shelter system and participating in the "Housing Now" movement. During her tenure with the U.S. Peace Corps in Jamaica, she worked with the Community Environmental Resource Center to help combat the contamination of the Harbour View community water supply by the neighboring Shell Company plant. She earned Master's Degrees in Public Health and Social Work from both the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland.



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About the Environmental Law Institute

Since 1969, ELI has played a pivotal role in shaping the fields of environmental law, policy, and management, domestically and abroad. Today, we enter our fifth decade as an internationally recognized, nonpartisan research and education center working to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide.

We deliver insightful and impartial analysis to opinion makers, including government officials, environmental and business leaders, academics, members of the environmental bar, and journalists. ELI is a clearinghouse and a town hall, providing common ground for debate on important environmental issues.

ELI's vision calls for "a healthy environment, prosperous economies, and vibrant communities founded on the rule of law." For more information, visit www.eli.org.

About the Society of Environmental Journalists

The Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) envisions credible and robust journalism that informs and engages society on environmental issues. Founded in 1990 by a small group of award-winning journalists, SEJ currently boasts a membership that includes more than 1,400 journalists and academics working in every type of news media in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and 27 other countries.

The Society seeks to strengthen the quality, reach, and viability of journalism across all media to advance public understanding of environmental issues. It provides critical support to journalists of all media in their efforts to cover complex issues of the environment responsibly. SEJ offers unique educational programs and services for working journalists, educators, and students, including annual and regional programs; daily *EJToday* news service; the *SEJournal*; FOI WatchDog project; SEJ Awards for Reporting on the Environment; mentoring program; website-based resources; and a lively membership network of journalists and academics. For more information, visit www.sej.org.

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