

# State of the Practice Symposium

MAY 2, 2014 • VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY • NASHVILLE, TN

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The state of the practice of environmental, energy, and resources law is in flux. Substantive practice areas are changing, merging, and emerging, and the economics of practicing law are impacting careers in all areas of practice. The American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (SEER) is committed to providing our members with the tools they need to successfully navigate the modern environmental, energy, and resource practice.

The State of the Practice Symposium will be presented at Vanderbilt University Law School as the *42nd National Spring Conference on the Environment*. This will also mark the first time that a live SEER conference will be simultaneously broadcast on the internet to all SEER members. The Symposium will bring together experts who will address both how substantive developments in environmental, energy, and resources law may impact lawyers at all stages of their careers as well as address the real world changing dynamics of the practice of law. The Symposium will provide all lawyers insight into how they can prepare to address the rapid changes in the practice of law.

**9:30 a.m.**

## **Breakfast and Registration Opens**

**9:45 a.m.**

## **Opening Remarks**

**Roger R. Martella Jr.**, Sidley Austin LLP, Washington, DC

**10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

## **What's in Our Future: The Key Trends and Developments in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Law That Will Change Our Practices**

Environment, energy, and resources practitioners have always dealt with change, learning to anticipate trends and to adapt their skills and expertise to address emerging issues. Rapid technological advances, sweeping regulatory initiatives, and emerging issues in climate change, sustainability, and energy development are rapidly reshaping the core practice areas for attorneys in this field making environment, energy and resources law some of the fastest growing and most dynamic fields of practice. What changes will the future bring? What substantive skills and areas of expertise will lawyers need to adapt to the new legal landscape in these practice areas? What are the growing practice areas where attorneys should develop expertise? This panel will explore emerging issues and the future directions of environment, energy and natural resources law that practicing lawyers should know to prepare for the future.

### **Moderator:**

**J.B. Ruhl**, Professor, David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair of Law, Co-Director of the Energy, Environment and Land Use Program, Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, TN

### **Speakers:**

**Environment: Ann Klee**, Vice President Environment, Health & Safety at General Electric, and former General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New York, NY

**Energy: David R. Hill**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, NRG, and former General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy, Princeton, NJ

**Natural Resources: Janice Schneider**, Latham and Watkins, Nominee, U.S. Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, Washington, DC

**12:00 p.m.**

## **Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

## **What's our Future Going to Look Like: How the Changing Practice of Environmental Law Will Impact Your Career**

Lawyers who practice environmental, energy, and resources law always have had to be particularly nimble and flexible in their practices as our field of law changes dramatically with changes and developments in environmental priorities, science, technology and policy. Likewise, the practice of environmental law reacts to changes in market conditions including government budgets and initiatives, changing corporate priorities, and NGO initiatives. The panel will discuss the state of environmental law practice, recent significant changes and the drivers behind those changes, and predictions and advice for how practicing attorneys should best position themselves now for the opportunities and changes that lie ahead.

### **Moderator:**

**Robert Martineau**, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Nashville, TN

### **Speakers:**

**Government: John C. Cruden**, President, Environmental Law Institute, Washington, DC

**Law Firms: Raymond B. Ludwiszewski**, Gibson Dunn, Washington, DC

**NGOs: Vickie Patton**, General Counsel, Environmental Defense Fund, Boulder, CO

**In-House: Raymond Coss**, Nissan, Nashville, TN

**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

## **Closing Remarks**

**William L. Penny**, Section Chair, Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Nashville, TN

**J.B. Ruhl**, Professor, David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair of Law, Co-Director of the Energy, Environment and Land Use Program, Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, TN