Growing Need in Energy & Water Law

Energy and water are Texas’s two most important resources. They are integral and undeniable assets of the United States and every nation around the world. They combine to create what is known as the “energy-water nexus” – an interdependent relationship that requires coordinated evaluation and planning when assessing their need, uses, value, and future potential. The generation of many energy types, especially fossil fuel, but also renewables like solar and hydropower, require significant quantities of water. Conversely most water production and purification processes are critically dependent on energy to extract, transport, and treat water. As Texas, the US, and nations around the world grow their economies, pursue sustainable development and natural resources management, and work to ensure the vitality of the environment, this nexus will continue to be a critical component for planning and future projections. As a result, there is a tremendous and expanding need for legal experts trained in various aspects of energy and water law who can facilitate progress in the development of safe, secure, and sustainable energy and water resources.

Fellowships/Internships for TAMU Law Students

Carla Green (3L) was selected for a 2014-2015 TAMU Energy Institute Fellowship sponsored by Conoco-Phillips. The fellowship is designed to reward “excellence in energy research, promote future research that is important to our energy future, and encourage students to pursue careers in energy.” Ms. Green is the first law student to receive this honor. Professor Eckstein has also procured internships for three TAMU Law students. Ellainna Douglas (2L) will spend the summer with the International Water Resources Association in Montpellier, France; Patrick Johnstone (2L) will work with the General Counsel’s Office of the Trinity River Authority of Texas; and Jessica Foster (2L) will work with the City of Houston on water resources issues.
Recent Events (cont.)

TAMU Law sent ten students to attend the symposium on “Career Paths for Young Energy Attorneys in the Energy Sector” in Houston March 27-28, 2015. This annual symposium is dedicated to helping students and young attorneys seeking a career in energy law. The event included a field trip to the Energy Trading Floor and Pipeline Hub.


Professor Warren was the Program Chair, 2015 AALS Annual Meeting; Natural Resources and Energy Law Section Program: Seismic Shifts in Energy: The Repercussions of Local Solar and Distributed Generation, January 3, 2015. She is currently the Secretary of the Natural Resources and Energy Law Section.


Professor Eckstein advised the UN Development Program and the Government of Azerbaijan December 8-18, 2014, in their effort to reform Azerbaijan’s national water law regime in relation to flooding and climate change.

Professor Warren and Eckstein screened the award winning independent film “Oil & Water,” December 2, 2014. Afterwards, Professor Warren moderated a discussion between students and Harry Sullivan, an international petroleum guru and TAMU Law Oil & Gas adjunct professor.


Professor Warren presented a CLE lecture and prepared an article on “Oil & Gas Pooling” for the annual State Bar of Texas, Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law 101, Houston, Texas, October 1, 2014.

Collaborating with College Station

Texas A&M University School of Law is collaborating with a number of other TAMU institutions on a variety of energy and water-related projects and activities. These collaborations are key to the development of a dynamic and interdisciplinary program that trains new lawyers in the interdependent and critical fields of energy and water law.

In 2014, Professors Eckstein and Warren were invited to join the Texas A&M Energy Institute as Affiliated Faculty. As a first collaboration, they were invited to prepare a two-week energy law module as part of a proposed master’s degree program. The two-week module will introduce students to U.S. and international energy law as well as nexus topics such water law and the climate.

In 2014, Professors Eckstein was invited to join the graduate faculty of the Water Management and Hydrological Science program at Texas A&M University (TAMU Water Program). This is an exciting opportunity for collaboration as it allows Professor Eckstein to teach in the TAMU Water Program, supervise graduate Water Program student research, and involve TAMU Law students in TAMU Water Program projects and events. It also opens up opportunities for collaborating with TAMU Water Program faculty and graduate students on unique interdisciplinary studies, workshops, and related activities. Professor Warren has also been invited to join the TAMU Water Program graduate faculty and her application is now pending.

New Adjuncts, New Courses

TAMU Law recently added new adjunct professors and courses to its energy and water law roster. Michael Goldman, of Guida Slavich & Flores, is teaching a new course on Environmental Oil & Gas Law. Harry Sullivan, an international energy attorney, formerly with ConocoPhillips and now with Kosmos Energy, is teaching Oil & Gas Law. In Fall 2014, Professor Warren taught a new seminar on Climate Change & Energy and will offer it again in Fall 2015. Professor Eckstein will teach a new seminar in Fall 2015 on International Water Law simultaneously to students at TAMU Law, College Station, and TAMU Galveston via TTVN.

Gabriel Eckstein
Professor, TAMU Law; Affiliated Faculty, TAMU Energy Institute; Faculty Member, TAMU Water Management & Hydrological Science Graduate Faculty; Executive Council Member, International Association for Water Law; Treasurer, International Water Resources Association; Director, International Water Law Project.

Gina Warren
Associate Professor, TAMU Law; Affiliated Faculty, TAMU Energy Institute; Representative Board Member for Law Schools, The Institute for Energy Law; Treasurer and Program Chair, Natural Resources & Energy Law Section of the American Association of Law Schools; Representative Member for Law Schools, Rocky Mountain Mineral Institute.