

3-31-2006

## Natural Disasters: Hurricane Katrina, The Lessons We Have Learned & Where We Go From Here, 18th Annual Red Clay Conference

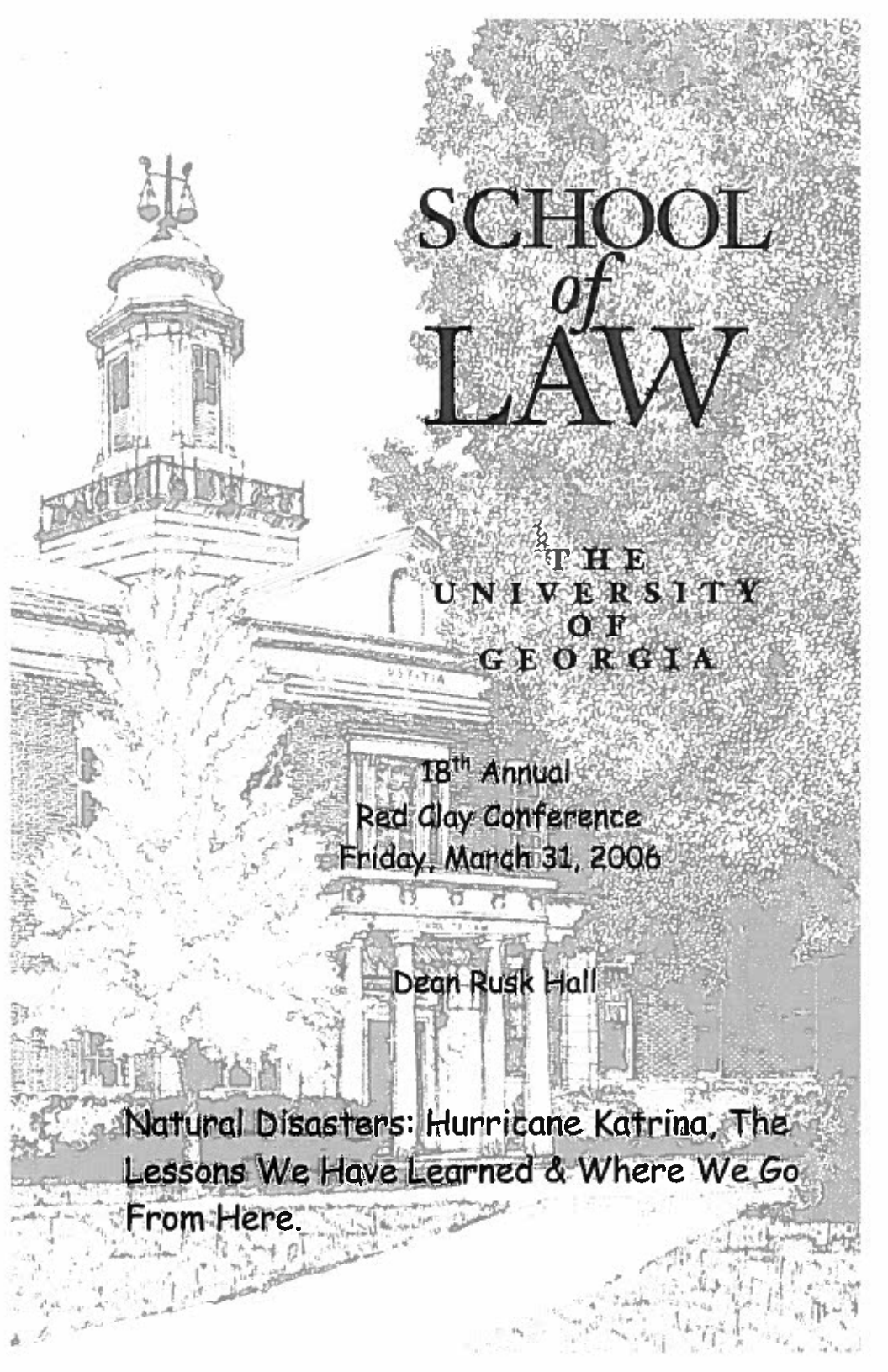
Environmental Law Society

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# SCHOOL *of* LAW

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF  
GEORGIA

18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Red Clay Conference  
Friday, March 31, 2006

Dean Rusk Hall

Natural Disasters: Hurricane Katrina, The  
Lessons We Have Learned & Where We Go  
From Here.

**Eighteenth Annual Red Clay Conference**

**Natural Disasters:  
Hurricane Katrina, the Lessons We Have Learned &  
Where We Go From Here**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

**Presented by:**

**The Environmental Law Association  
University of Georgia School of Law**

**Sponsored by:**

**REM**

## SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Red Clay Conference, organized by the Environmental Law Association at the University of Georgia School of Law, is intended to increase public awareness of environmental issues through a series of educational presentations and open forum discussions. A full spectrum of views from the private sector, the business sector, and public interest groups is represented. Panel discussions are followed by informal question and answer periods.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Eighteenth Annual Red Clay Conference will focus on natural disasters, our response to them, and the lessons to be learned from Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. It is our continuing hope that our efforts will advance sound environmental policy in Georgia and the southeast through education and discussion among interested stakeholders and attorneys.

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

A total of five CLE hours will be available during the conference.

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Environmental Law Association gratefully acknowledges the assistance of everyone in the law school especially Marc Galvin, Elaine Mitchell, Cathy Dasher, Ann Moser, Phyllis Cooke, JoEllen Childers, Lisa Mathis, Heidi Murphy and Dean Rebecca White. Special thanks to Prof. Peter Appel for his efforts, support and guidance through the coordination of this year's Red Clay Conference. We would also like to thank R.E.M., without whom this conference would not be possible. We thank them for their commitment to Georgia's environment and their continued generosity in support of the Red Clay Conference.

## **EVENTS**

### **Registration & Coffee**

8:30am - 9:00am

### **Welcome**

9:00am - 9:15am

*Rebecca H. White, J.D.*, Dean & J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law,  
University of Georgia

### **Planning & Preparation for Natural Disaster Emergency Response**

9:15am - 10:15am

*Peter A. Appel, J.D.*, Associate Professor of Law, University of Georgia  
*Laurie Fowler, J.D., L.L.M.*, Public Service Associate & River Basin Science  
& Policy Center, Co-Director, University of Georgia  
*Heather H. Horton, J.D., M.H.A.*, Department of Health & Human Services,  
Senior Attorney

### **Land use Policy to Prevent & Mitigate Against Natural Disasters**

10:15am - 11:15am

*Honorable Tommy Coleman, J.D.*, Former Mayor of Albany, GA & Private Attorney  
*Leroy G. Crosby*, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile/Savannah Planning Center  
Acting Savannah Unit Chief  
*Chris DeScherer, J.D.*, Southern Environmental Law Center, Senior Attorney

### **Break**

11:15am - 11:30am

### **Natural Disaster Insurance Implications in a Post-Katrina World**

11:30am - 12:30pm

*David J. Colmans*, The Georgia Insurance Information Service,  
Executive Director  
*Michael L. Wells, J.D.*, Marion & W. Colquitt Carter Chair in Tort &  
Insurance Law, University of Georgia  
*Susan Wilson*, CFM, Senior Natural Hazards Specialist,  
DHS/FEMA Region IV, Federal Insurance & Mitigation Divisions

### **Lunch**

12:30pm - 1:30pm

### **Health & Safety Issues in the Aftermath of Natural Disaster**

1:30pm - 2:30pm

*Kevin Beswick, J.D.*, EPA Region 4, Attorney  
*Micheal I. Krause, J.D.*, Intellectual Properties, Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, L.L.P  
*D. Jelani Miller*, SBA Disaster Assistance Office, Public Information Officer  
*Leif Palmer, J.D.*, EPA Region 4, Senior Counsel

### **Key Note Address: Katrina - An Unnatural Disaster**

*Rob R.M. Verchick, J.D.*, Loyola School of Law

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

### **Peter A. Appel**

Peter A. Appel joined the University of Georgia School of Law faculty in 1997 and teaches in the areas of property, natural resources law and environmental law. Prof. Appel developed a practical understanding of environmental issues through his six years of service as an attorney with the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to holding that position, he clerked for Chief Judge Gilbert S. Merritt of the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Prof. Appel earned his bachelor's and law degrees from Yale University, where he served on the notes editing committee of the Yale Law Journal and was a member of the Yale Law and Policy Review.

### **Kevin Beswick**

Kevin Beswick, Attorney, EPA Region 4, is a member of the Region 4 Ethic Teams and a senior attorney and regional bankruptcy contact for the EPA National Bankruptcy Work Group. Mr. Beswick has spent time working on hurricane relief in Florida and Mississippi with FEMA and EPA as a Response Support Corps personnel.

### **Honorable Tommy Coleman**

Honorable Tommy Coleman is the former Mayor of Albany, Georgia and presided during the worst natural disasters in state history (1994 flooding). Mr. Coleman practices privately in Albany. Mr. Coleman specializes in Government, Zoning, Planning and Land Use Law.

### **David J. Colmans**

Mr. Colmans is a veteran trade association and marketing communications executive. He has worked for more than a decade as an electronic journalist in the southeastern United States. He helped develop the Georgia Insurance Information Service (GIIS) in 1994 and became its executive officer in April, 1997. Since 1990, Mr. Colmans has been President of Colmans Communications Group, Inc., a marketing consultancy focusing on trade associations management, technology and health care.

### **Leroy G. Crosby**

Leroy G. Crosby is the acting Savannah Unit Chief of the Mobile/Savannah Planning Center for the US Army Corps of Engineers. He is an expert on the Savannah River Basin and the Savannah harbor and coast.

### **Chris DeScherer**

Chris DeScherer works on coastal, wetlands and water quality issues. He worked in private practice in North Carolina before joining SELC in 2000 as an Associate Attorney for two years. He went on to work for the Conservation Law Foundation in Maine, before re-joining SELC in 2003. Mr. DeScherer received his B.A. from the University of Virginia and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Laurie Fowler**

Laurie Fowler is the Public Service Associate and Co-Director of the River Basin Science and Policy Center. She is professor in the University of Georgia's Conservation Ecology Program, and adjunct professor in the University of Georgia's School of Law. Ms. Fowler received her J.D. at the University of Georgia and her L.L.M. at the University of Washington. Her research and service interests include a variety of topics ranging from federal, state, and local environmental protection laws and policies to watershed protection strategies, growth management and open space preservation, land use planning, conservation easements. She participates on many research and service projects and has numerous publications.

### **Heather H. Horton**

Heather H. Horton received her BA in English from Duke University, her MHA (Master in Health Administration) from Tulane University, and her JD from the Ohio State University College of Law. Currently, she serves as a senior attorney for the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prior to CDC, she was an attorney for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission, a non-partisan position drafting legislation for the Ohio Legislature. Ms. Horton also acted as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Latvia from 1992-1994.

### **Michael I. Krause**

Michael I. Krause received his B.S.C.S. from the Georgia Institute of Technology and his J.D. from the University of Georgia. Mr. Krause serves as the ABA Young Lawyers Division District Representative for Alabama & Georgia and, as part of that role, serves as a liaison between the ABA and FEMA.

### **Jelani Miller**

Mr. Miller will be representing the SBA Disaster Assistance Office and will be discussing various aspects of disaster relief, including reconstruction efforts and small business loans. The Investment Company Act of 1958 established the Small Business Company Program, under which SBA licensed, regulated and helped provide funds for privately owned and operated venture capitalist investment firms. Last year, the SBA made more than \$1 billion available for disaster loans & more than \$40 billion in federal contracts were secured by small businesses with SBA's help.

### **Leif Palmer**

Leif Palmer, Senior Counsel, EPA Region 4, did the primary legal work on debris clean-up in the Gulf Coast, and has dealt with FEMA funding issues under the National Response Plan, as well as hazardous waste issues. Mr. Palmer was the primary drafter of debris removal plans for Mississippi and Alabama, as well as guidance on dealing with burning of debris, CFCs, and demolition of structurally unsound buildings.

### **Rob R. M. Verchick**

Robert R. M. Verchick is the Gauthier-St. Martin Eminent Scholar Chair in Environmental Law. Professor Verchick received his A.B. from Stanford University and his J.D. from the Harvard Law School. Professor Verchick is currently a member of the Loyola Faculty of Law. A nationally recognized expert on environmental law and land use, Professor Verchick is a Research Scholar with the Center for Progressive Regulation in Washington, D.C. He was recently appointed Contributing Editor for the ABA's *Urban Lawyer* law journal, and serves on both the Executive Committees of the Environmental and Property Sections of the Association of American Law Schools and on the Advisory Committee of Harvard's Environmental Law Society. His scholarship focuses on environmental regulation and environmental justice, an area of study concerned with environmental protection and civil rights. His work has appeared in the *California Law Review*, the *Southern California Law Review*, the *Harvard Environmental Law Review*, and the *Stanford Environmental Law Journal*, among other places.

### **Michael L. Wells**

Michael L. Wells joined the faculty of the University of Georgia School of Law in 1978 and, in 2004, was named the holder of the Marion and W. Colquitt Carter Chair in Tort and Insurance Law after occupying a prestigious J. Alton Hosch professorship for 13 years. He has published numerous articles in leading journals including the *Cornell Law Review*, *Duke Law Journal*, *Virginia Law Review*, *Georgia Law Review*, *William & Mary Law Review*, *Constitutional Commentary* and *Yale Journal of International Law*.

### **Rebecca H. White**

Rebecca H. White, J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law, became the permanent dean of the School of Law on October 1, 2004, after serving as interim dean for 14 months. Previously, she served as associate provost and associate vice president of academic affairs for the University of Georgia. She specializes in the areas of labor law, employment discrimination, employment law and labor arbitration. She received her undergraduate degree from Eastern Kentucky University and graduated first in her class from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

### **Susan Wilson**

Susan Wilson is a Senior Natural Hazards Program Specialist with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Susan provides assistance and guidance to communities in the mitigation of natural hazards and the development of local floodplain management programs. Ms. Wilson began working at FEMA Region IV in 1983, and has worked extensively with all eight states in FEMA Region IV.



