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## Pace Environmental Law Review 2015 Symposium: Reconceptualizing the Future of Environmental Law

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**PACE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW**

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**FOREWORD**

**Pace Environmental Law Review**  
**2015 Symposium:**  
***Reconceptualizing the Future of***  
***Environmental Law***

CAYLEIGH S. ECKHARDT\*

Pace Environmental Law Review's 2015 Symposium, entitled *Reconceptualizing the Future of Environmental Law*, can be traced back to over a year ago when a few Pace Environmental Law faculty members approached me and Katie Hatt, the Managing Editor of the law review, with an idea.<sup>1</sup> No, not an idea, rather a question. They simply asked us, "what do you think the future holds for environmental law?" This question transformed into an extensive conversation about the past, the present, and the future of environmental law.

How do the founders of environmental law define the field? How is environmental law practiced today? How do current law

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\* *Editor-in-Chief*, Pace Environmental Law Review, 2014-2015.

1. Without the brainstorming of Professors Jason Czarnezki and David Cassuto, this Symposium would never have come into being. The entire law review extends our thanks to these creative mentors for sharing their idea with us and supporting us as we nurtured it and watched it blossom into a truly inspiring Symposium. We also extend our thanks to all the Environmental Law Faculty and staff for contributing to the planning of this event and for being such active participants during the event.

students and recent graduates view environmental law? Are these visions and definitions compatible? And, what do the agreements and disagreements suggest about the field of environmental law? These questions and many more inspired our law review to use this year's Symposium as a vehicle to facilitate a relevant, and necessary, dialogue about the future of our increasingly important legal discipline.

We invited environmental law professors, practitioners, and students to join together in a crucial conversation on redefining the field of environmental law. We asked them to comment on the continued expansion of environmental law into distinct areas of the law and the increasing need for a multidisciplinary approach, one that extends beyond traditional federal regulation. Numerous professors from across the country accepted the invitation and participated in the Symposium, professors with areas of study ranging from international law, environmental justice, and federal environmental regulation, to the role of private governance in environmental law, food and agricultural law, and animal law.

Each participant submitted a brief article. We purposefully left the writing prompt wide open, hoping to inspire creative thinking and ideas that would serve as kindling for the panels and discussions to be held throughout the Symposium. Our bet paid off, and we received, as this special issue demonstrates, a great range of submissions. They include personal conceptions of the future of environmental law, examination of specific issues that highlight the evolutionary nature of the field, theoretical, forward-looking analyses of where the field *ought* to go, and statistical analyses and surveys of current practices. *Pace Environmental Law Review* is privileged to present these thoughtful, inspiring, and important pieces in our journal.

Each piece provides a unique, challenging discussion; however, taken as a whole, these pieces do so much more. They demonstrate the necessity and importance of connectivity. Some of the major common themes that arise throughout the participants' articles are:

- 1) Connectivity. Identifying and strengthening the connections between environmental law and almost every other field of law;

- 2) Temporal connectivity. Acknowledging the strengths of command-and-control mechanisms and identifying how these tools implemented in the 1970's still apply, may be improved, and can/should be used in conjunction with newer avenues of environmental law, *i.e.*, linking the past, present, and future;
- 3) Synergies between actors—private, governmental, and private citizens; and
- 4) Pursuing ways to strengthen idea-sharing and cooperation between all the different levels of regulation—from nation states to municipalities—in combatting local and global environmental issues such as climate change and environmental justice.

As you read the following collection of articles prepared for our Symposium, keep in mind these themes and how, while maybe not at first glance, these articles fit together in more ways than one. These articles are the first step toward facing the future of environmental law head on and ensuring that the discipline evolves, grows, and permeates the lives of all who share this earth.<sup>2</sup>

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2. A final thank you goes out to all of our invited guests and authors who prepared the collection of articles found in this issue of the journal: Michael P. Vandenberg, Carmen G. Gonzalez, Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Chandos Culleen, Michael Pappas, James Salzman, J.B. Ruhl, Jonathan Remy Nash, Daniel A. Farber, Margot J. Pollans, Todd S. Agaard, Scott Schang, Leslie Carothers, and Jay Austin. To view the Symposium lectures and panels, see *Symposium on Reconceptualizing the Future of Environmental Law*, Pace Law, <http://www.law.pace.edu/symposium-reconceptualizing-future-environmental-law> (last visited May 4, 2015), *archived at* <http://perma.cc/9Y6L-DRUX>.