



University of Florida Levin College of Law
29th Annual Public Interest Environmental Conference
February 2–3, 2023

February 2, 2023	
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	<i>Arrival & Registration:</i> Guests can park in any orange or green lot that has its restrictions lifted at the time. We will have a table set up at the Bailey Event Space (Bruton Greer Hall 136) at the UF Levin College of Law campus to check in guests, speakers, and UF students.
6:00 PM	<i>Refreshments:</i> We will be serving a variety of hors d'oeuvres and drinks.
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM	<i>Keynote Speaker:</i> Nikki Fried <i>Received her BA, MA, and JD from the University of Florida. Experience practicing various forms of law, including corporate law, foreclosure defense, and public defense. Served as the 12th Florida Commissioner of Agriculture from 2019 to 2023.</i>
7:15 PM – 7:45 PM	<i>Keynote Speaker:</i> Jeff VanderMeer <i>Novelist Jeff VanderMeer's NYT-bestselling Southern Reach trilogy has been translated into over 35 languages. The first novel, Annihilation, won the Nebula Award and Shirley Jackson Award. His nonfiction essay "The Annihilation of Florida: An Overlooked National Tragedy" appeared in Current Affairs in 2022.</i>
7:45 PM – 8:00 PM	<i>Closing Remarks</i>

February 3, 2023	
9:00 AM – 9:40 AM	<i>Conference & Law School Welcome:</i> Faculty Advisor, Annie Brett & PIEC 29 Co-Chairs, Luke Haber, Julian Spiro, Zoe Weiser-Dalton
9:45 AM – 11:05 AM	<i><u>Land Use and Infrastructure Issues Impacting Florida</u></i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alex Erwin <i>Professor Erwin teaches and conducts research in the fields of environmental law and natural resources law at FIU Law. His legal scholarship is published or forthcoming in the Cornell Law Review, the Environmental Law Reporter, and the William and Mary Environmental Law & Policy Review.</i> ● Tom Kay <i>Executive Director, Alachua Conservation Trust; Chair, Board of Directors, Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation. A non-profit leader and attorney with more than a decade and half of experience in Project Management, land acquisition, corporate strategy, complex negotiations, fundraising, and community engagement.</i> ● Galen Treuer <i>Climate Tech and Economic Innovation lead at Miami Dade County. Helps develop climate strategies that work by combining technical expertise on climate risk, psychology, and policy change with experience in community organizing and public finance.</i> <p><u>Additional Speakers TBA</u></p>
<p>11:15 AM – 12:30 PM</p>	<p><u>Liquid Gold: From Supply & Quality of Drinking Water to Flood Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jaclyn Lopez <i>Assistant Professor of Law, Stetson Law School. FL Center for Biological Diversity; work involved advocating for the protection of ecosystems in the Caribbean and the Southeast U.S. Publications and scholarship focusing on curbing red tide, addressing sea level rise, and preventing pesticide runoff.</i> ● Robert Angus Williams <i>Lewis, Longman and Walker, Shareholder; Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of the General Counsel, General Counsel, 2017-2019; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Senior Attorney; Pepple Johnson Cantu & Schmidt PLLC; Fowler White Boggs; Pinellas County State Attorney's Office, Assistant State Attorney; Stetson University College of Law; University of Florida.</i> <p><u>Additional Speakers TBA</u></p>
<p>12:30 PM – 1:15 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LUNCH BREAK</u></p>

<p>1:15 PM – 2:40 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Florida’s Coastal Response to Climate Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominique Burkhardt <i>Senior Attorney at EarthJustice Florida; Experienced attorney who works alongside advocacy groups and communities to achieve environmental justice and promote healthy communities; Past cases include litigation over health risks migrants in detention centers face due to Homeland Security’s alleged disregard for health and safety in attempting to build new facilities on superfund sites.</i> ● Dr. Tiffany Troxler <i>Research Scientist and Associate Professor at FIU and Director for Science of the Sea Level Solutions Center; Studies wetland ecosystems ecology and informs management and restoration of coastal and freshwater wetland ecosystems. She is also the project collaborator and working group co-lead in the Florida Coastal Everglades LTER program.</i> ● Richard Grosso <i>Public-interest environmental attorney in private practice and a full-time professor of law. Experience in Florida state agencies and federal administrative tribunals and courts for 35 years. Contributed to decision-making aspects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, cutting edge "carrying capacity" land use planning in the Florida Keys, climate and sea level rise sustainability issues in south Florida.</i> ● Thomas Ruppert <i>Coastal Planning Specialist at Sea Grant Florida; A licensed attorney, Ruppert focuses his work on hazard mitigation, post-disaster recovery planning, environmental protection, marine spatial planning, and associated long-term challenges and opportunities in Florida’s coastal communities. He assists agents and local governments served by Florida Sea Grant.</i>
<p>2:50 PM – 4:10 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Future Moral and Legal Status of Florida’s Wildlife and Natural Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kristin Andrews <i>York Research Chair in Animal Minds and Professor of Philosophy at York University (Toronto), where she also helps coordinate the Cognitive Science program and the Greater Toronto Area Animal Cognition Discussion Group. Kristin is on the board of directors of the Borneo Orangutan Society Canada, a member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada, and the author of several books on social minds, animal minds, and ethics.</i> ● Chuck O’Neal

	<p><i>Chairman, FL Rights of Nature Network. Chuck wrote an early draft of the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act. He served as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and as First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. Chuck brought legal action to stop the ill-conceived hunting of the Florida Black Bear and has fought to protect Florida's springs and aquifers from all sources of pollution.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Erin Ryan <p><i>Director of the FSU Center for Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law at Florida State University College of Law. Ryan specializes in environmental and natural resources law, water law, and more. Has written extensively on rights of nature. Ryan has presented widely in the United States, Europe, and Asia, including the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, the National Association of Attorneys General, the United States Forest Service, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amber Polk <p><i>Professor at FIU. Prior to joining FIU Law, Professor Polk was the Teaching Fellow for the Environmental Law and Policy LLM program at Stanford Law School. Professor Polk has clerked for the Honorable Robert W. Trumble in the Northern District of West Virginia and the Honorable Joseph R. Goodwin in the Southern District of West Virginia. She was an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois College of Law in 2019.</i></p>
<p>4:15 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Closing Conversation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor Annie Brett <p><u>Additional Speakers TBA</u></p>