

# GWC

Getches-Wilkinson Center  
for Natural Resources, Energy,  
and the Environment



## **Women in Energy Law and Regulation**

**University of Colorado School of Law**  
**Wolf Law Building, Wittemyer Courtroom**  
**Friday, October 20, 2017**

## Conference Introduction

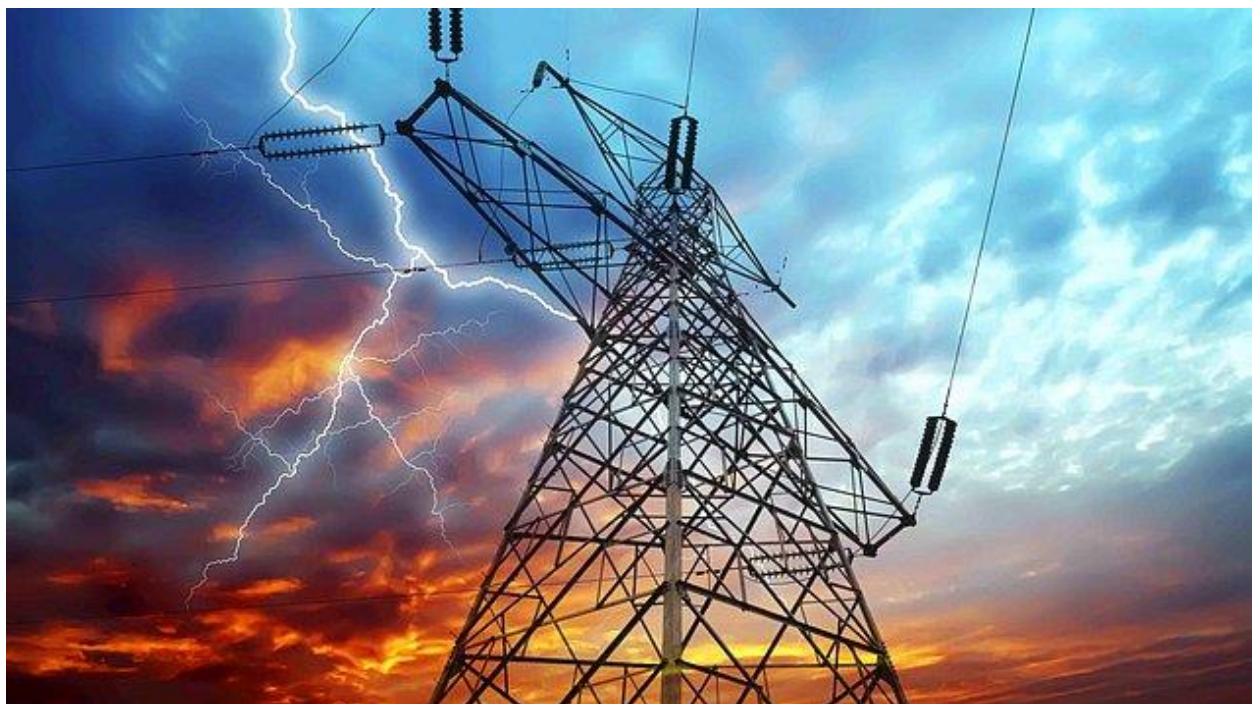
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This conference will bring together women in electricity law and regulation to discuss the most pressing questions facing legislators and regulators today. Each of the panel topics has been selected for its relevance in ongoing debates about the right way to structure and implement legal oversight of the electricity system. The event will be anchored by the law school's annual Schultz Lecture, to be held the evening before the conference. This year, the Schultz Lecture will be delivered by former FERC Commissioner Collette Honorable. Friday will also feature a conversation among energy journalists covering conference topics (and others like them). This will be an opportunity for an open conversation with other panelists and the audience about ways in which law professors, policymakers, and others can support the work of independent journalism in chronicling energy developments.

## Schedule of Events: Friday, October 20th

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<b>Welcome and Refreshments:</b>	<b>8:00-8:30</b>	<b>Boettcher Hall</b>
<b>Conference:</b>	<b>8:30-5:00</b>	<b>Wittemyer Courtroom</b>
<b>Morning Networking Break:</b>	<b>10:15-10:45</b>	<b>Boettcher Hall</b>
<b>Lunch with Keynote:</b>	<b>12:30-1:30</b>	<b>Schaden Commons Cafeteria (2nd Floor)</b>
<b>Afternoon Networking Break:</b>	<b>3:15-3:30</b>	<b>Boettcher Hall</b>



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# Agenda: Friday, October 20th

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**8:00-8:30 Welcome and Refreshments**

**8:30-8:45 Welcoming Remarks**

**8:45-10:15**

## **Participatory Governance in Energy Decisionmaking**

Scholars are increasingly suggesting that more participatory decision-making in the energy sector and at public utility commissions is the best way to address the clash of values that often surrounds key energy decisions including facility siting and ratemaking. Our panelists will canvas existing democratic mechanisms as well as opining on the wisdom and value of additional participation.

### **Panelists:**

**Rebecca Cantwell, Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association**

**Christine Scanlon, Keystone Policy Center**

**Carla Scarsella, Xcel Energy**

**Lindsey Stegall, Colorado Energy Office**

### **Moderator:**

**Sharon Jacobs, University of Colorado School of Law**

**10:15-10:45 Morning Networking Break  
(Refreshments provided in Boettcher Hall)**

**10:45-12:15**

## **Utility Resource Planning**

The second panel will examine the utility resource planning process. This process, in which utilities propose (and commissions approve) a resource mix to meet projected future demand. Choices made during this process can significantly impact core energy values including prices, reliability, and sustainability.

### **Panelists:**

**Julie Blunden, Julie Blunden Consulting**

**Virginia Lacy, Rocky Mountain Institute**

**Erin Overturf, Western Resource Advocates**

**Caitlin Shields, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP**

### **Moderator:**

**Vicky Mandell, The Mandell Law Firm, LLC**

**12:30-1:30 Lunch**  
**Provided in the Schaden Commons Cafeteria**  
**Wolf Law Building Second Floor**

**Lunchtime Keynote:**  
**Sherina Maye Edwards, Illinois Commerce Commission**

**1:45 to 3:15**

**Women in Energy Journalism**

As we face new challenges in the energy sector, in-depth, impartial journalism is more important than ever. In this panel, energy journalists from Colorado and beyond will speak to their experiences covering energy stories in print and broadcast media.

**Panelists:**

**Alisa Barba, Inside Energy**

**Ellen Gilmer, E&E News**

**Cathy Proctor, Denver Business Journal**

**Moderator:**

**Rachel Calvert, University of Colorado School of Law Class of 2019**

**3:15-3:30 Afternoon Networking Break**  
**(Refreshments provided in Boettcher Hall)**

**3:30 to 5:00**

**Siting Energy Facilities**

Our final panel will consider the challenges surrounding the siting new energy facilities (including generation and transmission). The regulatory regimes governing siting vary significantly by type of facility and by state. This panel will consider the benefits and drawbacks to existing siting schemes as well as possible changes to those processes.

**Panelists:**

**Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission**

**Tracey LeBeau, Western Area Power Administration**

**Melissa Powers, Lewis and Clark Law School**

**Amy Stein, University of Florida Levin College of Law**

**Moderator:**

**K.K. DuVivier, University of Denver Sturm College of Law**

## Speaker Biographies (alphabetical by last name)

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### **Alisa Barba, Inside Energy**

Alisa Joyce Barba is an award-winning journalist, producer, writer and editor with 25 years of experience in both network and public broadcasting. She is currently Executive Editor at Inside Energy, a public media collaboration focusing on America's energy issues. She also served as Senior Editor at Fronteras, a collaboration in the southwest covering border and immigration issues. For 12 years, she was the Western Bureau Chief for NPR News. Independent of NPR, she won a Dupont Award for her work as Executive Producer of a KPBS documentary entitled "Culture of Hate: Who Are We?" Alisa also worked a producer for ABC News in Beijing, and as a reporter for the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour in New York and Washington DC.



### **Julie Blunden**

Julie Blunden serves as Board Chair CalCEF Catalyst and Board Member of CalCEF Ventures as well as founder of Julie Blunden Consulting. She works with boards, investors and allies to accelerate a clean energy future using her deep experience in strategy, market design and development, financial markets and communications.

Ms. Blunden has served in executive roles at SunPower, SunEdison, Green Mountain Energy, and KEMA Xenergy as well as Chief Executive Officer, President and Director of ClimateWorks Foundation. She draws on her three decades of experience growing companies and markets in the power industry to support her clients and friends.



### **Rachel Calvert, University of Colorado School of Law Class of 2019**

Rachel Calvert is a second-year law student at the University of Colorado, where she is a research assistant for Professor Sharon Jacobs. While pursuing B.A.'s in English and Government from Georgetown University, she contributed to various media outlets around Washington, D.C. She later worked for a progressive media watchdog group before moving back out West to pursue her J.D. She spent her first-year summer at Earthjustice's Rocky Mountain office. She is an Oklahoma native.



**Rebecca Cantwell, Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association**

Rebecca Cantwell brings years of project management, communications and policy leadership experience to her work on solar energy. As Executive Director of the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association, Rebecca oversees all aspects of the award-winning non-profit that leads Colorado's solar industry and its more than 200 companies. COSEIA works on advancing solar policy and doing outreach and communications through work at the legislature, Public Utilities Commission, local governments and in the realm of public opinion.

In 2012, Rebecca led the team that created Solar Friendly Communities, a unique program to reduce solar soft costs by partnering with local governments to streamline permitting. Rebecca more recently spearheaded creation of Solar CitiSuns, a public-facing community of solar advocates designed to build a bigger support base for effective solar policies.



**Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission**

Karen Douglas was originally appointed to the California Energy Commission by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in February 2008 and re-appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in December 2012. She served as Chair from February 2009 to February 2011. She fills the Attorney position on the five-member Commission where four of the five members by law are required to have professional training in specific areas—engineering or physical science, environmental protection, economics, and law. Commissioner Douglas is the lead commissioner on power plant siting, compliance and enforcement, and the Desert Renewable

Energy Conservation Plan. Commissioner Douglas is a 2001 graduate of the Stanford Law School and holds a Master's Degree in public policy from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



**K.K. DuVivier, University of Denver Sturm College of Law**

K.K. DuVivier is a tenured full Professor of Law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She has taught full-time at the law school level since 1990, including ten years at the University of Colorado School of Law before joining the Denver Law faculty in 2000. Her current research and teaching focuses are energy and renewable energy law, with a special emphasis on wind, solar, and energy efficiency. In addition to scores of articles, she has authored two books: *Energy Law Basics* (2017) and *The Renewable Energy Reader* (2011). Professor DuVivier worked as a field geologist before law school, and after earning her J.D., she practiced for eight

years, first in natural resources law at the law firms of Sherman & Howard and Arnold & Porter, then as an Assistant City Attorney in the land use and revenue section for the City and County of Denver. Her net-zero home within walking distance of DU won the Colorado Renewable Energy Society's award for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design in Buildings—Single Family in 2012.



### **Sherina Maye Edwards, Illinois Commerce Commission**

Commissioner Sherina Maye Edwards was appointed by Governor Pat Quinn on February 25, 2013, to a five year term on the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). This appointment was historical as she was the youngest commissioner ever appointed in the state of Illinois.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Edwards practiced as an attorney with the highly ranked international law firm, Locke Lord LLP, where she focused on all aspects of consumer finance litigation. Since her appointment to the ICC, she has taken an interest in electric reliability, water, natural gas and critical infrastructure issues. Through her active involvement in the National Association for Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Commissioner Edwards serves as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety as well as Chair of the Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity and as a member of the Committee on Gas, with previous service on the Water Committee. In 2015, she traveled to Dubai to present to a foreign delegation on electric reliability and transmission issues. She is also member of the Organization of MISO States and serves as Secretary of the Board.

Commissioner Edwards has been a champion for diversity and inclusion and in September 2014, founded the Women's Energy Summit as an annual forum for select women across the nation to discuss pertinent issues in the energy industry, highlight accomplishments, uplift rising stars and break down barriers. In 2015, she co-founded the Chicago chapter of the Women's Energy Network, an organization which attracts, educates and develops professional women across the energy value chain. She was influential in the establishment of the ICC's Office of Diversity and Community Affairs and the formation of the Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council, a forum for best practice sharing and information exchange among Illinois' utilities with a focus on advancing the growth and utilization of diverse businesses in the state of Illinois.

Most recently, Commissioner Edwards was selected as a 2017 Eisenhower Fellow. In this capacity, she will serve as an ambassador for the United States in South Africa and Australia, meet with leading experts in the energy field, and learn more about the shift to renewable energy. A member of the Leadership Greater Chicago Fellows Class of 2015 and the Lake Shore chapter of the Links, Inc., Commissioner Edwards sits on several boards, including the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, the National Executive Board of Delta Sigma Theta and the Founding Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Academy Charter School. She also spends time volunteering with and mentoring underprivileged youth in the Chicago community. Commissioner Edwards earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Spelman College, cum laude, and a Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where she was a merit scholar.





**Ellen Gilmer, E&E News**

Ellen M. Gilmer is a legal reporter for E&E News in Washington, D.C., covering energy development. Her reporting focuses on the evolution of energy and environmental law in the face of a rapidly changing national energy landscape. She previously reported on state regulatory issues for E&E News. Her work has also appeared in The Oregonian, Scientific American and NYTimes.com. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ball State University and a master's degree in environmental law from Lewis & Clark Law School.



**Sharon Jacobs, University of Colorado School of Law**

Sharon Jacobs joined the University of Colorado Law School faculty in 2014 as an Associate Professor. Professor Jacobs graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 2009, where she was the Executive Articles Editor of the Harvard Law and Policy Review. After graduation, Professor Jacobs practiced in the energy and environmental regulatory groups at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, D.C. She then spent two years as a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School.

Professor Jacobs's research focuses on the impact of regulatory structure and process on policy outcomes in energy and environmental law. Recent projects have focused on agency decisionmaking in the context of electricity regulation, greenhouse gas policy, and species preservation; agency strategies to "bypass" federalism limitations in the context of programs to encourage management of electricity demand (demand response); and methods of adapting existing legal constructs to new actors in electricity markets. She teaches Environmental Law, Energy Law, Administrative Law, Legislation and Regulation, and related courses.



**Virginia Lacy, Rocky Mountain Institute**

Virginia Lacy is a Principal with RMI's electricity practice, where she leads research and collaboration work with electric utilities, corporations and government agencies to accelerate the clean energy transformation of the U.S. electricity sector. She has over 10 years of experience working across multiple dimensions in the electricity and clean energy space, including regulation, policy, operations, planning and finance.



**Tracey LeBeau, Western Area Power Administration**

Tracey A. LeBeau is Senior Vice President and Transmission Infrastructure Program (TIP) Manager at the Department of Energy's Western Area Power Administration.

Ms. LeBeau manages WAPA's \$3.25 billion loan portfolio, which invests in transmission and related infrastructure projects throughout WAPA's 15 state footprint. Ms. LeBeau has over 15 years of energy investment, start up and energy project development experience. She has served in executive capacities for numerous energy businesses throughout her career, including an interstate pipeline, wind development and investment company, energy trading business and other energy development companies. Prior to joining DOE, she served as Principal at Dentons, where she was co-chair of its Renewable Energy Practice and was also listed in Chambers top law rankings.

Ms. LeBeau received her A.B. from Stanford University and her J.D. from the University of Iowa.



**Vicky Mandell, The Mandell Law Firm**

Vicky Mandell is currently Chair of the Board of GRID Alternatives, Colorado, a non-profit providing solar energy and job training to underserved communities. She is an experienced regulatory attorney with over twenty years of experience representing a variety of clients including, corporations, Colorado state government, environmental advocacy non-profit organizations, solar companies, and other businesses. She is an experienced litigator with thousands of hours of stand-up time as lead counsel in administrative hearings, federal bankruptcy court trials, district court trials, and appellate experience before the Colorado Court of Appeals and Colorado Supreme Court. And, an experienced transactional attorney. Her primary responsibility as telecommunications in-house corporate counsel was drafting and negotiating complex telecommunications interconnection agreements and other commercial contracts. In addition to expertise in energy regulation, she also practices law in the data privacy and cybersecurity areas. She recently started her own law firm, The Mandell Law Firm LLC. Vicky's undergraduate degree is from Georgetown School of Foreign Service, and her JD and MBA are from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



### **Erin Overturf, Western Resource Advocates**

Erin Overturf is Chief Energy Counsel for Western Resource Advocates, a regional conservation organization. Her legal practice specializes in state regulatory proceedings and civil litigation, with a particular focus on the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. In this context, Erin advocates for policies that reduce the detrimental environmental impacts of the power sector. Prior to joining Western Resource Advocates, Erin served as an Assistant Solicitor General in the Office of the Colorado Attorney General, representing state agencies such as the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, and the Colorado Energy Office. She also served as a clerk to Justice Alex Martinez of the Colorado Supreme Court. Erin received her J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law and holds a B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Colorado. Erin also serves on the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.



### **Melissa Powers, Lewis and Clark Law School**

Melissa Powers is a Jeffrey Bain Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. In 2014-2015, Melissa was a Fulbright-Schuman Scholar researching Denmark and Spain's renewable energy laws. Melissa is also the founder and faculty director of the Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School, an organization that designs policies to a transition to a zero-carbon energy system. Melissa teaches climate change law, electricity regulation, renewable energy law, the Clean Air Act, administrative law, and torts.

Melissa's research focuses on energy reform, climate change mitigation, and pollution control. She is a co-author of the books *Climate Change and the Law* and *Principles of Environmental Law*, and several articles and book chapters focused on climate and energy law.



**Cathy Proctor, Denver Business Journal**

Cathy Proctor covers energy, the environment and transportation for the Denver Business Journal and edits the weekly "Energy Inc." email newsletter.



**Christine Scanlon**

As President and CEO, Christine is responsible for the overall management and policy work of the Keystone Policy Center. Her primary responsibilities include developing new policy and program work, fundraising, and working with the senior management team and Board of Trustees on the overall operations and management of the organization.

Christine is a well-respected leader in education policy and a seasoned facilitator with extensive public policy experience at the state and national levels. Her work includes broad-based and widely respected projects, including the Colorado Oil and Gas Task Force's work from 2014 to 2015 finding collaborative ways to balance oil and gas development — one of the most important economic drivers in Colorado — and private mineral right holders' interests with local residents, public health officials, and conservationists' concerns. Christine also has led projects aimed at helping states better prepare teachers for success in the classroom, the Licensing Educators for Academic Development (LEAD) Compact, and worked with the states of Massachusetts and Louisiana on teacher licensure and preparation.



**Carla Scarsella, Xcel Energy**

Carla Scarsella is an Assistant General Counsel with Xcel Energy. Focusing primarily in Xcel Energy's Colorado jurisdiction, her work includes providing counsel to internal clients and administrative litigation involving natural gas and electric matters before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Prior to joining Xcel Energy, Ms. Scarsella was a partner at Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy LLP where her practice focused primarily on representing natural gas, electric and water industry clients before the Illinois Commerce Commission and state courts. Ms. Scarsella also served as an attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the Illinois Commerce Commission, where she represented Commission Staff on a variety of matters, including rate proceedings for natural gas, electric, and water utilities. Ms. Scarsella was also formerly an associate at Foley & Lardner LLP.

Prior to practicing in energy regulation, Ms. Scarsella worked in tax consulting for eight years, including as a Senior Tax Consultant in the Real Estate Tax Practice of Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Ms. Scarsella received her law degree from The John Marshall Law School. She received her bachelor's degree in public accounting from Loyola University Chicago. Ms. Scarsella is a registered certified public accountant in Illinois.



**Caitlin Shields, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP**

Caitlin M. Shields focuses her practice on energy and environmental regulation. She routinely advises clients on integrated resource planning issues, ratemaking and rate design, SmartGrid, energy efficiency, renewable energy, distributed generation, net metering, energy procurement, utility restructuring and competitive market development. She also devotes a significant portion of her practice to providing strategic policy and legislative guidance, and finding creative regulatory solutions to issues posed by new and emerging energy technologies.

Ms. Shields also advises clients in environmental, health and safety matters. She provides regulatory and compliance counseling, conducts environmental due diligence reviews on transactional matters, and represents clients in administrative and judicial enforcement cases.

Previously, Ms. Shields worked for a boutique energy and environmental litigation firm in Chicago. Prior to that, she was a law clerk for Judge Herbert L. Stern III of the Denver District Court where she focused on complex civil litigation and administrative appeals. She has clerked for the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training, and worked as a summer associate at a large law firm in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



### **Lindsey Stegall, Colorado Energy Office**

Lindsey Stegall is a Policy and Regulatory Analyst at the Colorado Energy Office – a branch of the Governor’s Office focused on delivering cost-effective energy services and advancing innovative energy solutions in Colorado. In her role, she leads the office's engagement in regulatory proceedings related to energy policy at the Public Utilities Commission, and manages projects aimed at advancing markets for renewable energy resources in the state. Prior to joining the Colorado Energy Office, Lindsey worked for an energy consulting firm in California, where she managed regulatory affairs, conducted research and developed new energy and water efficiency programs. She has also worked in the residential solar industry, and on sustainability initiatives in a local government setting. Lindsey has an MBA with a focus on sustainable management from Presidio Graduate School and a BA in music from the University of Colorado.



### **Amy Stein, University of Florida Levin College of Law**

Amy L. Stein is a Professor of Law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, nationally recognized for her research on energy policy, particularly with respect to federalism, the regulatory process, and administrative law. Professor Stein’s recent scholarship focuses on the complex governance issues associated with regulation of an evolving electric grid composed of more diverse and distributed energy resources, including solar, energy storage, and electric vehicles. She also has explored impacts on the reliability of the electric grid and the intersection of energy and environmental law. She teaches in the areas of energy law, environmental law, climate change, and torts, and she has presented her energy work across the country and internationally, in both academic and policy forums.

Professor Stein began her academic career at George Washington University Law School and Tulane Law School. Prior to her academic appointments, she practiced as an environmental and litigation associate for Latham & Watkins LLP in the firm's Washington, D.C., and Silicon Valley offices. She is a member of the District of Columbia, Illinois, and California state bars and a graduate of the University of Chicago (AB) and the University of Chicago Law School (JD).

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# University of Colorado Law School

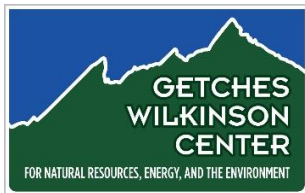
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Established in 1892, the University of Colorado Law School is one of the top public law schools in the United States. Colorado Law School's diverse student body is selected from among the statistically best applicants from every corner of the nation representing over 100 undergraduate institutions, and its highly published faculty is dedicated to interacting with students both inside and outside the classroom. The school's state-of-the-art green building is located at the base of the Rocky Mountains in beautiful Boulder, Colorado. With about 500 students and a low student to faculty ratio, Colorado Law School is a thriving academic community where the study of law is embraced to create leaders who recognize the civic responsibilities essential to the legal profession.

## Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment

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The Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment endeavors to serve the people of the American West, the nation, and the world through creative, interdisciplinary research, bold, inclusive teaching and innovative problem solving in order to further true sustainability for our use of the lands, waters, and environment. Major programs and initiatives focus on natural resources, water and public lands issues in Colorado and the West; energy and environmental security in the developing world; electricity regulation and energy policy; climate change law and policy; and native communities and environmental justice. The name comes from the contributions of two iconic figures in the law school's environmental law history, David Getches and Charles Wilkinson.

## Upcoming Events

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**Find information on upcoming GWC events at:**  
<http://www.colorado.edu/law/research/gwc/events>

