



Western Resources Legal Center

September 2008

Legal Center Lends Action and Academics to Environmental and Natural Resources Law

Western Resources Legal Center (“WRLC”) currently the nation’s only environmental clinical internship program specializing in the representation of natural resource users, proudly announces its official opening!

After several years of planning and tremendous effort, WRLC is representing natural resource-dependent entities from its office in downtown Portland, Oregon and offering a clinical internship seminar at Lewis and Clark Law School, US News and World Report’s number one rated environmental law program. The clinic provides an unparalleled learning opportunity for students and the prospect of significantly impacting the environmental and natural resource communities.

WRLC is not only unique in that it is the first program that educates law students from the perspective of natural resource dependent entities but is also the result of a unique collaborative effort of various industries such as mining, timber, and agriculture. WRLC relies solely on the generous donations from these various industry groups.

WRLC’s Clinical Internship Program is a Success

Opening in Winter Term, 2008, student interest in the program exceeded available positions. WRLC launched its first semester with three solid students, each of which gave WRLC stellar student evaluations after completion of the course. These students gained practical legal experience in the area of administrative law by preparing comments to submit to government agencies on behalf of various clients. The students also gained practical litigation and legal writing skills by assisting WRLC in representing Douglas Timber Operators, Montana Logging Association, and Montana Wood Products in an *amicus curie* brief before the United States Supreme Court.

Currently, WRLC is in its second semester. Again, student interest greatly exceeded capacity and after a competitive selection process, four students accepted positions in WRLC’s program. This semester, students are preparing an *amicus* brief on behalf of a multitude of allotment holders, including the Oregon and Washington Cattlemen’s Associations in a case involving grazing allotments on the Malheur National Forest. Students are also assisting in WRLC’s representation of ranchers in Eastern Oregon in a very complex Endangered Species Act case.

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Who is WRLC?

Executive Director and supervising attorney Caroline Lobdell is an adjunct clinical faculty member at the Lewis and Clark Law School. Caroline earned her B.S. from the University of South Carolina, and earned a J.D. from Lewis and Clark Law School with an Environmental Law certification. Caroline has more than six years experience with complex litigation and contested case hearings. Before studying law, Caroline worked on various environmental and regulatory issues during an internship at the U.S. Senate Science and Transportation Committee and later employment with U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings.

WRLC's Board of Directors is comprised of a wide range of individuals who are involved in natural resource businesses, including operators, advocates, and attorneys.

WRLC Board of Directors

- Steve Wildish, Chairman, Wildish Land Co.
- Sean Smith, Vice-Chairman, Starfire Lumber
- Tim Bernasek, Oregon Farm Bureau
- Mark Dunn, Simplot
- Scott Horngren, Haglund, Kelley, et al
- Elizabeth Howard, Dunn Carney
- Jim Huffman, Lewis & Clark Law School
- Dave Hunnicutt, Oregonians in Action
- Valerie Johnson, DR Johnson Lumber
- Cameron Krauss, Swanson Group
- Roger Nicholson, Rancher
- Bob Skinner, Rancher
- Doug Whitsett, Oregon State Senator

WRLC's Legal Services

Persons or businesses interested in benefiting from WRLC's legal services are welcome to submit an application for consideration. Applicants should include a letter explaining the nature and scope of the legal issues and the parties involved. Applicants should also include any pertinent non-privileged and non-confidential documents.

How to Become Involved in WRLC

Thanks to the generous support of so many, in terms of both time and money, WRLC is alas formed and gaining momentum. However, at this fledging stage, WRLC is only beginning to realize its mission of representing natural resource dependent entities. With your financial support, WRLC will continue its mission, while training extraordinary legal minds in the process.

To make a donation, for more information, or to find out if you have a legal issue of interest to the center, please visit the website at www.wrlegal.org or write to Caroline Lobdell at CLobdell@wrlegal.org or 1500 SW First Avenue, Suite 765, Portland, OR 97201.