

# Foreword

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We proudly present the annual fourth edition of *Ecology Law Quarterly*, the transcripts for the 2024 Annual Symposium. The Annual Symposium serves as the basis of our annual “.4” edition. Just as the global environmental movement has continued to evolve since ELQ’s founding in the 1970s, so has our focus. Publishing pieces that push the conventional boundaries of environmental law means exploring parts of the environment movement that were historically too often ignored by environmental-legal academia, or not considered environmental issues at all. In recent years, we have transformed our Symposium to invite and learn from voices beyond traditional environmental-legal academia: practicing lawyers, activists, policy advocates, and experts from other environmental fields. We hope to create a resource in environmental law to be shared with our readers across the environmental movement.

The 2024 Annual Symposium, under direction of Symposium Director, Natalie Friedberg, was entitled “Reframing Conservation, Ecology, and Environmental Justice.” The aim of this Symposium was to bridge the gap between these ideas. Although the mainstream environmental movement traditionally thought of equitable environmental health, Indigenous land management, and access to green spaces as separate, these speakers explain how each of these ideas overlap. After all, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly.” More broadly, our speakers demonstrate how to apply environmental justice as a lens that we can use in *all* environmental-legal work by promoting the integration of Indigenous knowledge, community engagement, and environmental reparations through legal proceedings.

The Symposium featured an array of presentations in varying formats.

First, a Q&A Conversation with Director of California State Parks Armando Quintero and Professor Holly Doremus on promoting equitable access to green spaces through policy, studying and encouraging reflection on the cultures within

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California's state parks, and working with Native Tribes and Nations to manage them.

Second, a panel discussion, moderated by Shree Mehrotra, continued the conversation on equitable access to green space. The panel featured Equity Officer for East Bay Regional Park District and Founder of Latino Outdoors Jose G. Gonzalez, Senior Dean of Research & Planning at Contra Costa Community College and Professor of Anthropology at Yuba College Dr. Emma Blackthorne, and Senior Project Manager with the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project Nicole Merino Tsui.

Third, a presentation on environmental justice in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest by climate attorney Matt Simmons from the Environmental Protection Information Center.

Fourth, a presentation on how traditional ecological knowledge can and should be incorporated into environmental decision making under the California Environmental Quality Act by Curtis Vandermolen, an expert in federal Indian law and long-time practitioner in negotiations between the California state government and Native Tribes and Nations.

Fifth and finally, an individual presentation on Native land trusts by Stanford Indigenous archaeologist Michael Wilcox, focusing on the past and present of Indigenous people's relationship with landscapes in the Bay.

In sum, this Symposium featured a host of experts and practitioners breaking down the traditional divide between "mainstream" environmentalism and the environmental movement. These advocates have won hard-fought battles in part because they saw beyond this conceptual divide, and we are so grateful for their time and insights.

This symposium was organized by Berkeley Law student and 2024 ELQ Symposium Director, Natalie Friedberg. The panelists were Director Armando Quintero of California State Parks, Professor Holly Doremus of Berkeley Law, Nicole Merino Tsui of West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, José G. González of East Bay Regional Parks District, Dr. Emma Blackthorne of Yuba College and Sutter Buttes Land Trust, Matt Simmons of Environmental Protection Information Center, Curtis Vandermolen of Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann & Girard, and Professor Michael Wilcox of the Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Trust and Stanford.