

Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, Vol. 25,
at VLGS Presents its 25th Annual Symposium

WE'RE BRINGING NATURE BACK: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE



VERMONT JOURNAL
of ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



VERMONT
LAW & GRADUATE SCHOOL

Saturday, November 18
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET

Chase Community Center
or Watch Live at

vermontlaw.edu/live

**CLE credit is available.*

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

8 to 8:30 a.m. • Registration

8:30 a.m. • Opening Remarks

Introduction Monica Nerz JD/MERL'24, *Editor in Chief, VJEL*

Speakers Professor Delcianna Winders, *Director, Animal Law and Policy Institute, VLGS*
Symposium Editors Jennifer Bass JD'24 and Katlyn Schafer JD'24

Land Recognition Rich Holschuh, *Chair, Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs;*
Co-Director, The Atowi Project; Contributor, Abenaki Alliance

9 to 10:15 a.m. • Panel One • International Implementation

Introduction Hope McLellan-Brandt JD/MELP'24, *Environmental Justice Managing Editor, VJEL*

Moderator Dr. Yanmei Lin, *Deputy Director, U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law, VLGS*

Panelists Dr. Margot Clarvis, *Head of Nature-Based Solutions, C-Quest Capital*
Dr. Fabiano de Andrade Corres, *Climate Change Specialist*
Dr. Zhiyu Huang, *Associate Professor, Law School of Nanchang University, China*

10:15 to 10:25 a.m. • Presentation

Creating Just Transition in Agriculture: The 10 Agroecology Principles • Ilinca Johnson JD'26

10:25 to 10:30 a.m. • Break

10:30 to 11:45 a.m. • Panel Two • Indigenous Peoples Contributions to Climate Solutions

Introduction Scott Berkley JD'24, *Senior Articles Editor, VJEL*

Moderator Professor Mia Montoya Hammersley, *Director, Environmental Justice Clinic, VLGS*

Panelists Earl L. Hatley, *President, Local Environmental Action Demanded (L.E.A.D.) Agency, Inc.*
Rebecca Jim, *Founder, Local Environmental Action Demanded (L.E.A.D.) Agency, Inc.*
Dr. Victoria Sutton, *VLGS; Founding Member of the National Congress of American Indians, Policy Advisory Board*

11:45 to 11:55 a.m. • Presentation

Wetland Function of Chadwick Meadows in Sutton, New Hampshire • Alexander Simoneau MFALP'24

11:55 a.m. to 12 p.m. • Break



SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

12 to 1 p.m. • Keynote Speaker • Mary Wood, University of Oregon School of Law

1 to 1:40 p.m. • Lunch

1:40 to 1:55 p.m. • Presentation

A Vision for Community-Based, Collaborative, and Sustainable Farming • *White River Land Collaborative*

1:55 to 2 p.m. • Break

2 to 3:15 p.m. • Panel Three • Biodiversity

Introduction *Josie Pechous JD'24, Senior Notes Editor, VJEL*

Moderator *Professor Delcianna Winders, Director, Animal Law and Policy Institute, VLGS*

Panelists *Jamey Fidel JD/MSEL'01, General Counsel and Forest and Wildlife Program Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council*

Mackenzie Landa LLM'16, Alumna, VLGS

Jennifer Rubis, Indigenous Peoples Specialist, Green Climate Fund

Amy Sheldon, Chair of the House Environment and Energy Committee, Vermont Legislature

3:15 to 3:25 p.m. • Presentation

How Municipalities Can Utilize Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Resilience

Christina Ramsey JD/MCEP'25 and Ashton Danneels JD/MELP'25, Staff Editor, VJEL

3:25 to 3:30 p.m. • Break

3:30 to 4:45 p.m. • Panel Four • Blue Carbon

Introduction *Logan Keen JD'24, Senior Managing Editor, VJEL*

Moderator *Pat Parenteau, Professor Emeritus, VLGS*

Panelists *Dr. Adam D. Orford, Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia School of Law*

Cymie Payne, Associate Professor, Rutgers University

Anastasia Telesetsky, Professor of Law, California Polytechnic State University

4:45 to 5 p.m. • Closing Remarks

Speakers *Symposium Editors Jennifer Bass JD'24 and Katlyn Schafer JD'24*

Stephanie Piccininni JD'24



OPENING REMARKS • LAND RECOGNITION

Speaker



Rich Holschuh

Rich Holschuh is a resident of Wantastegok (Brattleboro, Vermont) of Mi'kmaq, Wendat, and European heritage, and an Indigenous cultural researcher. He serves on the Vermont Commission for Native American Affairs and as a public liaison for the Elnu Abenaki Tribe, representing with governmental agencies of oversight. Holschuh works with the contemporary Abenaki community, partnering with a wide variety of other groups to provide outreach, build connections, and foster relationships.



Moderator



Dr. Yanmei Lin

Yanmei Lin is a professor of law at Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLGS) and deputy director of the **U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law**. Her research and programmatic work focus on the rule of law development in China's environmental governance. She has led the development and implementation of the Partnership for Environmental Justice Project, which supported the establishment of a new Environment and Biodiversity Law Clinic in Yunnan Province to provide legal aid services to NGOs and vulnerable communities. Dr. Lin also supported the design and implementation of environmental law judicial training programs for Chinese judges and lawyers.

She is the author of over 40 academic articles both in Chinese and English in the area of comparative environmental law such as environmental public interest litigation, citizen suits, wetland and wildlife protection, and the access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. In 2021, Dr. Lin was named the 2022 Richard Brooks Distinguished Faculty Scholar. The award is given to a faculty member who has contributed significantly to the scholarly mission of the school. An “unsung publishing hero,” Dr. Lin has developed a set of scholarly work that has influenced the development of a more robust environmental governance system.

Before she joined VLGS in October 2010, Dr. Lin was a program officer for the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative and a researcher for the China Institute of Environment and Resources Protection in Minority Areas at the Central University for Nationalities. She holds a LLB and LLM in jurisprudence from Fudan University, and an LLM in international legal studies from New York University School of Law. Dr. Lin has a PhD in environmental and resources law from China University of Political Science and Law. She is an affiliated professor of law at Yango University in the Fujian Province and a research fellow at Research Center for Ecological Governance and Rule of Law at Shantou University in Guangdong Province. Dr. Lin also serves as co-chair for the Teaching and Capacity Building Committee of IUCN Academy of Law.



Speakers



Dr. Margot Clarvis

Margot Clarvis leads the development and management of **C-Quest Capital's (CQC)** programs on nature-based solutions. Dr. Clarvis has more than 15 years of experience working in research, partnership development, and program management at the intersection of climate adaptation, resilience, nature conservation, and finance. Prior to joining CQC, she was director of programs at Earth Security, a boutique advisor on natural assets to investors, companies, and governments. There, she led client engagements and projects on private sector engagement and partnership development on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and nature-based solutions in the Horn of Africa, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Dr. Clarvis has also worked with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative and ESG information provider Asset 4 (now Refinitiv). As an independent consultant, she has worked with NGOs and financial institutions to develop programs and products for nature-based solutions and climate resilience, including the International Organization for Migration, the Clean Cooking Alliance, Conservation International, AXA Climate, WWF, and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Dr. Clarvis holds a PhD in environmental policy from the University of Geneva, a master's degree in environmental technology from Imperial College London, and a bachelor's degree in classics from the University of Cambridge.



Dr. Fabiano de Andrade Correa

Dr. Fabiano de Andrade Correa is a climate change specialist. Dr. Andrade Correa also volunteers as lead counsel with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law's (CISDL) peace, justice, and governance programs (SDG16); as director of legal research with the Blockchain and Climate Institute (BCI); and as coordinator of capacity building at LACLIMA. Dr. Andrade Correa holds a PhD in law and an LLM from the European University Institute (EUI, Italy); a master's degree in diplomacy and international relations (Diplomatic School of Madrid / Universidad Complutense); and a bachelor of laws, with a specialization in international law (LLB, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil).



Dr. Zhiyu Huang

Zhiyu Huang received a PhD in environmental law from Wuhan University in 2016. Currently, Dr. Huang is an associate professor at the law school of Nanchang University in China. Previously, Dr. Huang served as an assistant professor of environmental science and engineering at Nanchang University in China as well as a visiting scholar at Vermont Law and Graduate School.

PANEL TWO • INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Moderator



Professor Mia Montoya Hammersley

Mia Montoya Hammersley is the director of Vermont Law and Graduate School's Environmental Justice Clinic and an assistant professor of law. She is a member of the Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe, Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, and a Yoeme (Yaqui) descendant. In her work, Professor Montoya Hammersley has represented conservation organizations in protecting land from extractive industries, Tribes in defending and asserting their land and water rights, and communities experiencing disproportionate environmental health harms. Her chapter, "The Water-Energy Nexus and Environmental Justice: the Missing Link Between Water Rights and Energy Production on Tribal Lands," was published in the UA Press Series, *Indigenous Environmental Justice*, in 2020. In 2021, Professor Montoya Hammersley was a recipient of the Young, Gifted, and Green 40 Under 40 Award by Black Millennials for Flint for her work in the field of environmental justice.

Speakers



Earl L. Hatley

Earl L. Hatley is a co-founder of **Local Environmental Action Demanded (L.E.A.D.) Agency**, a grassroots organization in northeastern Oklahoma, where he is also the board president. He currently serves as a board member for **Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition**, **Building a Local Economy (BALE)**, and **Rural Vermont**. Hatley is also president of the board for Ottawaquechee Water Protectors Association in Quechee, Vermont. He previously served as the grand riverkeeper, patrolling the Grand River and feeder streams of the upper Grand River watershed. He has also served on the Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Council for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and on the board of directors for Oklahoma Sustainability Network. Hatley is an enrolled citizen of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi with Cherokee/Shawnee heritage.

PANEL TWO • INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Speakers



Rebecca Jim

Rebecca Jim founded **Local Environmental Action Demanded (L.E.A.D.) Agency** in 1997 and guides the organization in its mission to achieve environmental justice in northeastern Oklahoma. She focuses on addressing damaged lands that have been poisoned by unchecked industrial growth and processes. With a strong volunteer base, Jim and her team have been able to clean up the **Tar Creek Superfund Site** in the Quapaw Tribal Land. Serving as an Indian counselor for 25 years for the Miami, Oklahoma, Public Schools and for 10 years as faculty advisor for the Cherokee Nation Learn and Serve Program at Miami High School, she has brought state and national recognition to the Miami Schools for the Tar Creek Project. Jim holds a bachelor's degree in behavioral sciences from Southern Colorado State College, and a master's degree in education counseling from Northeastern State University. She is also a craftsperson in beadwork and baskets, and has been interested in the arts all her life.



Dr. Victoria Sutton

Victoria Sutton is a member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe of North Carolina. She is a founding member of the **National Congress of American Indians, Policy Advisory Board**, serving since 2005. Dr. Sutton has taught Indigenous Justice, American Indian Law, Environmental Law, Emerging Technologies Law, International Environmental Law, and Constitutional Law, as well as courses related to Native American culture and law in the Texas Tech University (TTU) Anthropology and Archaeology Department. She served as the Native American Students Association advisor at TTU and at Yale University during her visitorship. Dr. Sutton currently serves on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of TTULaw. She also leads the TTU Indigenous and Native American Studies Circle, where they are developing a certificate and minor program for graduates and undergraduates.

For the American Association of Law Schools, Dr. Sutton served as the national committee chair of the Indigenous and Native American Law Section. She also served as the secretary for the National Native American Bar Association. Dr. Sutton is a lifetime Sequoyah member of the **American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)**. In 2018-19, she served as the Native American cultural advisor for a musical in Hollywood. Before coming to academia, Dr. Sutton served in an internship at the U.S. Department of Justice, Indian Resources Section, and performed clerking duties for Judge Plager in the Federal Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals. Prior to that time, she served as assistant director in the White House Science Office for environmental science issues, and as the White House-EPA liaison. Later, taking temporary leave from her academic post, she served as chief counsel for the Research and Innovative Technology Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation.





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MARY WOOD

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
SCHOOL OF LAW**

Mary Christina Wood is a Philip H. Knight Professor of Law at the University of Oregon and the faculty director of the school's nationally acclaimed Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center. She is an award-winning professor and the co-author of leading textbooks on public trust law and natural resources law. Her book, "Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age" (*Cambridge University Press*), sets forth a new paradigm of global ecological responsibility.

Professor Wood originated the legal approach called Atmospheric Trust Litigation, now being used in cases brought on behalf of youth throughout the world, seeking to hold governments accountable to reduce carbon pollution within their jurisdictions. She has developed a corresponding approach called Atmospheric Recovery Litigation, which would hold fossil fuel companies responsible for funding an Atmospheric Recovery Plan to draw down excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere using natural climate solutions. Professor Wood is a frequent speaker on climate issues and has received national and international attention for her sovereign trust approach to global climate policy.



Moderator



**Professor
Delcianna Winders**

Delcianna Winders is an associate professor of law and director of the **Animal Law and Policy Institute** at VLGS. Professor Winders previously taught at Lewis & Clark Law School, where she directed the world's first law school clinic dedicated to farmed animal advocacy. She served as vice president and deputy general counsel at the PETA Foundation, was the first academic fellow of the Harvard Animal Law and Policy Program, and was a visiting scholar at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. Her primary interests are in animal law and administrative law. Professor Winders has also taught animal law at Tulane University School of Law and Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Her work has appeared in the *Denver Law Review*, *Florida State Law Review*, *Ohio State Law Journal*, *NYU Law Review*, and the *Animal Law Review*. Professor Winders has also published extensively in the popular press, including *The Hill*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *New York Daily News*, *Salon*, *USA Today*, and numerous other outlets.

She received her BA in legal studies with highest honors from the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she was named a Regents' Scholar and received the Dean's Award for outstanding achievement in social sciences, and her JD from NYU School of Law, where she was awarded the Vanderbilt Medal for outstanding contributions to the law school, named as a Robert McKay Scholar, and served as the senior notes editor of the *NYU Law Review*. Following law school, Professor Winders clerked for the Hon. Martha Craig Daughtrey on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and practiced animal law in a variety of settings.

Speakers



**Jamey Fidel
JD/MSEL'01**

Jamey Fidel holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies with a minor in wildlife biology from University of Vermont's School of Natural Resources, and a JD and MSEL from Vermont Law and Graduate School. In his capacity at **Vermont Natural Resources Council**, Fidel leads the legal program, and forest and wildlife programs, including the Forest Roundtable, which is a quarterly meeting of diverse stakeholders focused on forest policy and management, and conservation issues in Vermont. He also works with communities across Vermont promoting planning, zoning, and non-regulatory strategies for forestland and wildlife habitat conservation. Fidel previously worked as conservation director of the Aspen Wilderness Workshop, project director of Public Counsel of the Rockies, and biological inventory coordinator of Pitkin County, Colorado.

Speakers



**Mackenzie
Landa LLM'16**

Mackenzie Landa is a senior policy advisor at the **U.S. Department of the Interior**. Prior to joining the Biden Administration, Landa served as counsel to Senator Cory Booker, working on environmental, animal, energy, natural resources, and agricultural issues. Before that, she served as counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, where she led the committee's work on nature-based climate solutions. She received an LLM in environmental law from Vermont Law and Graduate School, a JD from Florida State University College of Law, and a BA from Emory University.



Jennifer Rubis

Jennifer Rubis is the Indigenous Peoples specialist for the Green **Climate Fund (GCF)**. She joined GCF in 2019, after serving 10 years with UNESCO, where she coordinated the **Climate Frontlines** forum and was program specialist for the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems program. Her specialty areas include Indigenous knowledge and climate change, with a focus on adaptation and impacts, Indigenous-led initiatives in community forestry and natural resource management, using technologies to assist marginalized people in developing countries, community tourism, Indigenous and land rights issues, and traditional knowledge documentation. Since 2000, Rubis has worked, from community to international levels, toward inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in environmental policy and decision-making. A Dayak from Malaysian Borneo, Rubis comes from a line of shamans and priestesses and from one of the few Jagoi families that actively honor, through practice, their hill rice cultivation traditions.



Amy Sheldon

Amy Sheldon holds a BA in economics from Middlebury College and an MS in natural resource planning from the University of Vermont. In addition to being a state legislator, she is a consulting conservation planner. Sheldon's past work includes: senior faculty member at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS); first executive director of the White River Partnership and the Middlebury Area Land Trust; and a natural resource planner for the City of Eugene, Oregon. Her past volunteer commitments include: 10 years on the Middlebury Planning Commission; district commissioner for the Natural Resources Board; and board member of the Middlebury Area Land Trust. Currently, Sheldon serves on the **Middlebury Conservation Commission**, and she is also chair of the House Environment and Energy Committee.



PANEL FOUR • BLUE CARBON

Moderator



**Professor Emeritus
Pat Parenteau**

Patrick Parenteau is a professor emeritus and senior fellow for climate policy in the **Environmental Law Center** at Vermont Law and Graduate School. He previously served as director of the Environmental Law Center and was the founding director of the **Environmental Advocacy Clinic** (formerly the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic) in 2004.

Professor Parenteau has an extensive background in environmental and natural resources law. His previous positions include vice president for conservation with the **National Wildlife Federation** in Washington, D.C. (1976-1984); regional counsel to the New England Regional Office of the EPA in Boston (1984-1987); commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (1987-1989); and senior counsel with the Perkins Coie law firm in Portland, Oregon (1989-1993). Professor Parenteau has been involved in drafting, litigating, implementing, teaching, and writing about environmental law and policy for over three decades.

His current focus is on confronting the profound challenges of climate change through his teaching, publishing, public speaking, and litigation. Professor Parenteau is a Fulbright U.S. Scholar and a fellow in the American College of Environmental Lawyers. In 2005, he received the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Achievement Award in recognition of his contributions to wildlife conservation and environmental education. In 2016, he received the Kerry Rydberg Award for excellence in public interest environmental law. Professor Parenteau holds a BS from Regis University, a JD from Creighton University, and an LLM in environmental law from the George Washington University.

Speakers



Dr. Adam Orford

Dr. Adam Orford is an assistant professor at the University of Georgia (UGA) School of Law. His interdisciplinary research investigates legal and policy approaches to environmental protection, human health and well-being, and deep decarbonization of the United States economy. He also participates in collaborative research initiatives across UGA.



Speakers



Cymie Payne

Cymie Payne is an associate professor at Rutgers University, and chair of the Ocean Law Specialist Group of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**. She advised the IUCN delegation to the UN Intergovernmental Conference on conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of the high seas (“BBNJ Agreement”), and she currently leads work on legal aspects of the BBNJ Agreement implementation. Payne leads the team for IUCN’s submission to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in its current advisory opinion case on climate change. She has provided expert advice on environmental liability and reparations before courts including the International Court of Justice. Payne is a fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers; served as chair of the American Society for International Law’s Steering Committee for the Signature Topic “Beyond National Jurisdiction;” and was a member of the International Law Association Committee on Sustainable Natural Resource Management. She holds a master’s degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a juris doctor from the University of California, Berkeley.



Anastasia Telesetsky

Anastasia Telesetsky is a law professor at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, (Cal Poly) where she teaches Environmental Law (U.S. and international) in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Telesetsky has published extensively on environmental law (particularly ocean and fisheries law), international disaster law, and ecological restoration law. She is a co-author of the “West Nutshell on Ocean and Coastal Law” (new edition 2024), “Comparative and Global Environmental Law and Policy” (2019), and “Ecological Restoration in International Environmental Law” (2017). Telesetsky has previously taught at law schools in New Zealand, China, and Japan. She has her JD from UC Berkeley and her LLM from the University of British Columbia.



10-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS

Speakers



Ilinca Johnson JD'26

“Creating Just Transition in Agriculture: The 10 Agroecology Principles”

Ilinca Johnson is at Vermont Law and Graduate School to study international environmental law. She holds a marine sciences BS and human rights BA from the University of Connecticut (UConn). Before coming to VLGS, Johnson worked as a climate policy legal intern for the Connecticut Institute of Resilience and Climate Adaptation, and as a manuscript typist for international law professors at the UConn School of Law.



Alexander Simoneau MFALP'24

“Wetland Function of Chadwick Meadows in Sutton, New Hampshire”

Alexander Simoneau is currently a master's student at Vermont Law and Graduate School in the food and agriculture law and policy program. In May 2023, he graduated from Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire, with a bachelor's degree in environmental science and a minor in sustainability. His senior research project was a self-designed study on the performance of a man-made, 30-year-old, 100-acre wetland named Chadwick Meadows, located in Sutton, New Hampshire. His research revisits Chadwick Meadows after two decades of an absence of data collection to analyze the wetland's current chemical function within its larger watershed.



White River Land Collaborative

“A Vision for Community-Based, Collaborative, and Sustainable Farming”

Founded in 2021 and sited on a historic Tunbridge, Vermont, farm, the **White River Land Collaborative** is a farmer-led, community-driven project that aims to provide young farmers affordable land and housing; offer other support to the region's farmers and economy; generate green power; and provide community space. The collaborative is an example of how market forces, tax laws, community interests, and energy technology can all come together to increase the vitality of the local economy and food supply. As of early 2022, the project team and volunteers had begun renovating a farm store and cleaning out the hay barn. The team has been presenting regionally and nationally about its innovative model of community-based land ownership and is working to deepen connections with the Abenaki community, planting native species in the forest, and planning farm and forest projects. Vital Communities is happy to be among the organizations that have helped this project become a reality.



10-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS

Speakers



**Christina
Ramsey JD/MCEP'25**

“How Municipalities Can Utilize Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Resilience”

Christina Ramsey is a second-year JD/MCEP student and Schweitzer Fellow at Vermont Law and Graduate Student, hailing from Richmond, Virginia. Her career goal is to pursue a career at the nexus of international climate law and policy, biodiversity protection, and ocean and coastal law. She is also the inclusion chair for the Student Bar Association and a research associate for the U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law at VLGS.



**Ashton
Danneels JD/MELP'25**

“How Municipalities Can Utilize Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Resilience”

Ashton Danneels is a second-year JD/MELP student and a Schweitzer Fellow at Vermont Law and Graduate School, from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is hoping to pursue public service through environmental law. Her interests lie in toxic exposure and health and biodiversity protection. She is also the co-chair of the Environmental Law Society and a staff editor with VJEL.



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at VLGS thanks all of our guest speakers and
attendees for participating in this year's symposium.