

Law School Liaisons

Barry University School of Law/St. Thomas School of Law

The Center for Earth Jurisprudence (CEJ) winter update offers practicing lawyers opportunities to attend a symposium about the precautionary principle for CLE credit and to audit courses about Earth jurisprudence and incorporating the principles of Earth jurisprudence into business law. A joint initiative of Barry and St. Thomas universities, the CEJ seeks to establish new approaches to law and governance that acknowledge the rights and interdependence of nature and the inhabitants of Earth. The CEJ has recently expanded to Central Florida, opening an office at the Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law at Barry University in Orlando. For more information or to sign up for the newsletter, visit www.earthjuris.org.

Precautionary Principle Academy

The CEJ presents the Precautionary Principle Academy, a participative event designed to explore the Precautionary Principle and its practical implications as the basis for local and state laws with members of the legal and environmental communities. Three national experts from the Science and Environmental Health Network (SEHN) lead the academy: Carolyn Raffensperger, Ted Schettler, and Joseph Guth; they discuss scientific and legal uncertainty, present case studies, and investigate local applications. A panel of local lawyers and decision-makers address the intersection between the Precautionary Principle and local environmental concerns. Participants are invited to suggest practical issues and investigate how the precautionary principle applies to their area of expertise. Two Florida locations are scheduled: Miami, February 6; and Orlando, February 9. In Miami the panel of local issues is led by Murray Greenburg, former Dade County attorney; in Orlando, it is led by Robert Guthrie, senior assistant county attorney, Orange County. Receptions are hosted the night before, and CLE

credit is available. Registration for CLE credit is \$80; e-mail cej@stu.edu for more.

Audit Opportunities for Practicing Lawyers

Beginning in January, the CEJ is offering an opportunity to practicing lawyers to audit "Exploring Principles of Earth Jurisprudence Seminar." Taught by CEJ executive director Sister Pat Siemen, O.P., J.D., the course examines, *inter alia*, the principles of an ecological worldview, legal concepts of indigenous people, standing issues for non-humans, and emerging legal and equitable remedies. Offered Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. "Business Law and Earth Jurisprudence" is also available for audit. Participants will investigate expanding the realm of corporate accountability – Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – to mesh principles of Earth jurisprudence and of social and environmental responsibility with profit maximization and accountability toward shareholders. CEJ legal director Mary Munson, a former deputy general counsel of the National Parks Conservation Association, joins forces with St. Thomas Law Faculty Professor Lydie Pierre-Louis to teach the course. Classes begin January 6 at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens; Tuesday and Thursdays, 3:45 - 5:00 p.m. Call 305-628-2329 to register.

Published Works

This summer the PACE Environmental Law Review published an article by Judith E. Koons, associate professor of law at Barry University School of Law and chair of the CEJ governance committee, titled "Earth Jurisprudence: The Moral Value of Nature," 25 Pace Envtl. L. Rev. (2008). In it, Koons explores the moral status of nature by examining issues such as global warming, genetic modification and the practical consequences of monocultures against the backdrop of four moral questions: what is good?; what is fitting?; what is true?; and

what is right? In addition, the Barry University Law Review's winter edition is dedicated to Earth jurisprudence. Readers can acquaint themselves with issues central to Earth jurisprudence from the perspectives of a South African environmental lawyer, a founder of a nonprofit international environmental law institute, a law professor, a law student and others.