

Erica Jayne Thorson

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Education

Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College Portland, OR
J.D, *cum laude*, December 2005, Environmental and Natural Resources Certificate
Honors: Dean's Scholar List
Cornelius Honor Society
Dean's Scholarship

Davidson College Davidson, NC
B.A. Sociology
Honors: Phi Beta Delta
Academic Scholarship

Current Position

Lewis & Clark Law School, Acting Director, International Environmental Law Project,
Portland, OR, August 2007-Present

Acting as Director of IELP during Chris Wold's sabbatical (2007-2008): manage the budget, fundraise, and manage all aspects of student participation.

Lewis & Clark Law School, Clinical Professor of Law & Staff Attorney, International
Environmental Law Project, Portland, OR, August 2005-Present

Primary Responsibility:

Clinical professor and staff attorney for the International Environmental Law Project, the law school's international environmental clinic: Co-teach weekly meetings with Chris Wold. Supervise students' work on projects for which I am the lead attorney; develop student research and writing assignments to further development of practical skills; conduct individual weekly student meetings to discuss legal issues, strategy, and work progress; manage active project docket; attend international meetings relevant to practice.

Recent successes/projects include:

- *Elephant culling and the Precautionary Principle*: (On behalf of Care for the Wild) Lead author of white paper (with Chris Wold) challenging South Africa's National Parks agency's application of the precautionary principle to its proposal for elephant culling in Kruger National Park. Care for the Wild used this analysis to successful lobby to forestall the proposed culling.
- *Nationally-established Export Quotas under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna*: worked within a coalition

- including Pro Wildlife (German NGO), Species Survival Network, and David Shepard Wildlife Foundation (U.K. NGO) to successfully advocate for a requirement that the scientific findings for export quotas are reviewed annually
- *World Heritage Convention & Climate Change*: (with the Climate Justice Programme and a team of international environmental lawyers throughout the world) Have begun engaging the World Heritage Committee in the international response to climate change by filing a number of petitions for World Heritage sites in danger due to climate change (melting glaciers and coral bleaching). To date, the Committee has adopted three decisions recognizing the effects of climate change and calling on the Parties to engage in adaptation and site-level mitigation. Also has encouraged Committee to adopt a “Strategy” for climate change and a policy document on climate change, for which I was one member of a team of experts who reviewed and commented. This work has also resulted in the publication of a pamphlet on case studies on climate change and World Heritage sites.
 - *Hydroelectric Dams near Panama’s La Amistad International Park*: (on behalf of Center for Biological Diversity and the Naso and Ngobe (indigenous groups in Panama)) lead author on a petition to list Park as in danger due to pending construction of four hydroelectric projects. The World Heritage Committee responded positively to the Petition, requesting Panama to invite investigators to the Park to assess impacts.
 - *Pacific Salmon Treaty and public participation*: (on behalf of Pacific Salmon Treaty Reform Coalition, including Trout Unlimited, Wild Salmon Center, and David Suzuki Foundation) successfully lobbied the Pacific Salmon Commission to begin a review of its public participation practices. Gave presentation on salmon management and public participation to Commission at October Executive Session in Coeur D’Alene, Idaho.
 - *Overseas Territories and Whale Issues*: (on behalf of Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society) Successfully completed legal opinion on application of CITES and the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling to overseas territories. Opinion used in lobbying efforts at meetings of International Whaling Commission and for European Union lobbying.
 - *Iron fertilization*: worked with international coalition to prevent unregulated dumping of iron into the ocean for the purpose of stimulating phytoplankton blooms to generate carbon offsets.
 - *Environmental Rights*: collaborated with Earthjustice as an author of their Environmental Rights Report

Work in progress includes:

- *World Heritage and Climate Change*: continue to be involved in negotiations, expert groups, and preparatory work for meetings as core member of coalition.
- *CITES*: continue to collaborate on CITES issues and specifically working on purpose codes and the personal and household effects exemption
- *Pacific Salmon Treaty*: ongoing coalition member and legal consultant for coalition efforts.

Additional Teaching Responsibilities:

- *International Environmental Law* – co-taught with Melissa Powers, Fall 2007
- advise law review papers and independent studies

Professional Experience

Law Clerk, IELP, Lewis & Clark Law School, August 2004 – May 2005

Participated in meeting of the COP in Bangkok, Thailand as IELP delegate; drafted compliance and enforcement white paper; worked with other law clerks to draft a treaty: World Heritage Species

Research Fellow, Lewis & Clark Law School, for Professor Michael Blumm, Portland, OR, April 2004 – May 2005

Drafted *amicus curiae* brief on Oregon takings case; assisted in writing a chapter for a treatise, *Water and Water Rights*, on salmon and the Columbia River Basin; co-authored an article on salmon recovery under the Endangered Species Act

Legal Intern, Port of Portland, Portland, OR, January 2005 – August 2005

Researched and drafted legal memoranda concerning hazardous waste issues.

Research Fellow, Lewis & Clark Law School, for Professor Chris Wold, Portland, OR, May 2005 – August 2005

Intern, Conservation Law Foundation, Brunswick, Maine, June 2004 – August 2004

Participated in preparatory work for litigation on application of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to Georges Bank groundfish; drafted memorandum of the doctrine of public trust as it applied to aquatic commercial use of Maine's coastline.

Legal Writing Program, Lewis & Clark Law School, Teaching Assistant, Portland, OR, Aug. 2004 – May 2004

Provided peer guidance to first-year law students; edited papers and outlines; helped students develop and improve legal writing and research skills; created hypothetical problems for writing assignments; prepped students for moot court; judged moot court

Judicial Clerk, Washington State Appellate Court, Spokane, WA, May 2003 – August 2003

Drafted opinions and memoranda.

Publications

On Thin Ice: The Failure of the United States and the World Heritage Committee to Take Climate Change Mitigation Pursuant to the World Heritage Convention Seriously, in 38 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 139 (2008)

“The World Heritage Convention and Climate Change: The Case for a Climate-Change Mitigation Strategy Beyond the Kyoto Protocol,” in ADJUDICATING CLIMATE CHANGE: SUB-NATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND SUPRA-NATIONAL APPROACHES (Burns & Osofsky, eds., Cambridge University Press) (forthcoming 2008)

Practiced at the Art of Deception: The Failure of Columbia River Basin Salmon under the Endangered Species Act, 36 Environmental Law (2006) (co-authored with Mike Blumm and Josh Smith)

Legal Opinion on SANPark’s Use of the Precautionary Principle, *in* Elephant Management in South Africa: The Need to Think Big (Care for the Wild 2005)

Presentations and Lectures

Can Wildlife Trade Bridge the Poverty Gap?: CITES, Sustainable Use, and Livelihoods, National Center for Animal Law, Animal Law Conference (September 2007)

The International Regulation of Trade in Endangered Species: Will the Ivory Trade Save or Endanger the African Elephant?, Lewis & Clark College, as guest lecturer in Environmental Law & Policy

Practicing International Environmental Law, Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, Milwaukee, WI, guest speaker for International Women’s Day

Conferences

Pacific Salmon Workshop, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, California: invited participant

Executive Session of the Pacific Salmon Commission, Pacific Salmon Treaty, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho: invited presenter

Animal Law Conference, Building Bridges—Strengthening the Animal Advocacy Movement: invited participant and speaker.

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, CITES, The Hague, Netherlands

Globalizing Clinical Legal Education for the Protection of the World’s Health and Environment (University of Maryland): invited conference participant.

ELAW Public Interest Conference (2007 & 2008)

Strategizing to Reform the Pacific Salmon Treaty (hosted by Trout Unlimited in Seattle): invited panel participant

European Strategy Meeting, Species Survival Network, Budapest, Hungary

13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, CITES, Bangkok, Thailand

Associations and Memberships

Oregon State Bar

Species Survival Network

Pacific Salmon Treaty Reform Coalition