

Environmental Law Society Spring Event - Environmental Law Career Panel

By: Liadan Stammmler

The Environmental Law Society (ELS) at Delaware Law School held an Environmental Law Career Panel in early April. Three panelists, all alumni of Widener University Law School, joined the event to offer valuable insight on their respective paths to environmental law. The first panelist, Patrick DeArmey, also an alumnus of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, is a senior litigation manager at the Chesapeake Legal Alliance in Baltimore. The second panelist, Lori Sanders, also a Clinic alumnus, is the Chief Environmental Counsel at DuPont in Wilmington. Last but certainly not least was Mark Wendaur, counsel at Offit Kurman in Philadelphia. Mark represents clients in domestic and foreign transactions and engages in renewable and nonrenewable energy transactions.

The panel was the first event ELS held since the society revamped this Spring Semester after being dormant for several years. The panelists provided attendees with varying points of view on environmental law. DeArmey shared his vast knowledge regarding the Clean Water Act and citizens' suits. Sanders' outlook from in-house counsel was interesting in comparison to Patrick's. Wendaur, as a private practitioner, described the world of environmental law and how it is intermingled with other sectors.

The panelists' hosted a lively discussion on complex topics such as "How do you see the role of environmental lawyers shifting in the coming years as environmental issues become more central to our society" and "What are the most important skills a law student should develop if they seek to be an environmental attorney?" While the panelists had differing positions they agreed on three takeaways: (1) take advantage of your law school connections and do not forget them when you graduate; (2) stay curious about current environmental law developments and topics you find interesting; and (3) environmental law inevitably will shift as we move into the future, but it is more paramount than ever. If you are interested in supporting the Environmental Law Society, reach out to ELS President Nick Smith at nsmith5@widener.edu.