



Oregon Conservation Law Forum

April 4, 2018, 10am-2:30pm
Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt
[1211 SW 5th Ave, Suite 1900](#)
Metolius Conference Room
[Registration Information](#)

Forum Agenda

For the latest agenda, [see our website](#)

10:00am – 10:30am: Welcome, introductions and overview of agenda

- **Kelley Beamer**, COLT Executive Director. Ms. Beamer has more than nine years' experience developing strategic advocacy campaigns to advance land conservation. Prior to joining the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Kelley served as the Advocacy and Outreach Manager for the Cascadia Green Building Council.
- **Nancy E. Duhnkrack**, COLT Pro Bono Program Coordinator. Ms. Duhnkrack is a 1985 graduate of Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College. She retired in 2014 as Staff Attorney/Law Clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit after 20 years at the Court. She was an Adjunct Professor at the law school from 1990-2010 and is a frequent speaker on conservation easement design and enforcement.

10:30am – 12:00pm: Navigability and Water Boundaries

Under Oregon water law the state owns the bottomland under navigable rivers and a riparian landowner's property starts at the water line. But there are difficult questions associated with these boundaries, including: Which waterways are navigable? What happens if the stream shifts its banks? To address these questions attorney Jennie Bricker will discuss navigability and property boundaries associated with rivers and lakes in Oregon.

- **Jennie Bricker**, attorney, Jennie Bricker Land & Water Law. Ms. Bricker is an expert in waterway navigability, ownership, and boundaries. Previously at Stoel Rives, Ms. Bricker now has her own practice. She received her J.D., *magna cum laude*, in 1997 from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College.

12:00pm – 12:30pm: Lunch (provided)

12:30pm – 1:00pm: State Policy Updates: Short legislative session

COLT staff will discuss the outcomes from the short legislative session including the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director of 1000 Friends of Oregon, will also be joining us to address several land use and zoning bills that will likely reappear in future legislative sessions

- **Kelley Beamer**, COLT Executive Director. See biography above.
- **Mary Kyle McCurdy**, Deputy Director, 1000 Friends of Oregon. Ms. McCurdy joined 1000 Friends in 1990 as a staff attorney. She has since served 1000 Friends as Policy Director, Staff Attorney, and Deputy Director. With over 30 years working with Oregon land use laws, Mary Kyle is a state leader and trusted voice on equitable land use, housing, transportation, urban planning, and climate solutions.

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1:00pm – 2:00pm: Federal Policy Updates and Syndicated Conservation Easements

The first fifteen minutes of this presentation will center on the important conservation funding sources of LWCF and the Farm Bill. The other forty-five minutes will be a discussion of syndicated conservation easements and the legislative fixes supported by the Land Trust Alliance and Oregon Senator Ron Wyden. Since syndicated conservation easements – easements inflated in value to serve as tax shelters – are an increasing problem for both the IRS and the land trust community we encourage attorneys and land trust staff to learn more about these transactions.

- **Kelley Beamer**, COLT Executive Director. See biography above.
- **Lori Faeth**, Government Relations Director, Land Trust Alliance. Ms. Faeth has extensive international experience with natural resource protection, wildlife conservation, and sustainable energy exploration and development. Before becoming Government Relations Director at the Land Trust Alliance, Lori served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs at U.S. Department of the Interior.
- **Leslie Ratley-Beach**, Conservation Defense Director, Land Trust Alliance. Leslie Ratley-Beach joined The Land Trust Alliance as its first Conservation Defense Director in August 2007. Leslie led the effort that created the first ever national conservation defense liability insurance program, as well as leading the Alliance's conservation defense initiative. She is a national author and speaker. Leslie has a law degree from Boston University (1985) and Bachelors' degrees from University of Oregon.

2:00pm – 2:30pm: Round Robin Discussion

The group will discuss current issues and questions about conservation easements in a free-flowing discussion.

2:30pm: Adjourn

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