



**Everglades**  
**Law Center, Inc.**  
*Defending Florida's Ecosystems  
 and Communities*

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**EVERGLADES LAW CENTER**  
**Annual Report for 2008**

**Message From Executive Director Richard Grosso**

The ELC is a not-for-profit law firm dedicated to representing the public interest in environmental and land use matters, with five attorneys in offices in Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. For over a decade, under our previous name – the Environmental and Land Use Law Center, and, since April 2006 as the Everglades Law Center, our work as lawyers and advocates has focused on restoring the Everglades and the Keys and preventing growth from ruining special places like Martin County. Our mission is to advocate, negotiate and, when necessary, litigate, to protect and restore the South Florida ecosystem.

The ELC represents clients either “pro bono” (no charge) or for very reduced fees. Our work is funded through individual contributions, foundation grants, and in some cases through limited client – paid fees. We are governed by a 7 member Board of Directors.

The ELC is a law firm, but we have always viewed litigation as a last resort. Over the past several months, our litigation docket was as heavy as it has ever been, and I write this note during a rare break from trial. The common element of the majority of these cases is an attempt to move development boundaries into rural and sensitive areas. Each cases tests the commitment of the state and local governments to “walk the walk” - to direct development towards the infill and redevelopment areas where their comprehensive plans call for meeting the bulk of new population growth demands. In each case, the local governments chose instead to do what they have historically done – allow the development of cheaper, rural land, which consumes more farmland and wetlands, costs taxpayers more to provide services and facilities, and moves urbanization closer to the Everglades and other ecosystems.

We thank our supporters, clients and teammates for the opportunity to make a difference in 2008.

The ELC represents clients either “pro bono” (no charge) or for very reduced fees. Our clients cannot afford to hire private attorneys, which is why the “public interest” tends to be outweighed by certain private interests in court. Our goal is to level the playing field, but we largely depend on grants and contributions from organizations and individuals to support our work as lawyers and advocates. We take on the biggest, toughest issues and our accomplishments rival those of much larger law offices. Our administrative and overhead costs are very low - we are a "no frills" law firm. We are a small organization, but we make a big impact, - so even modest contributions go a long way to directly funding legal help for Florida's special places. This is a critical time for Florida's future, and the need for public interest legal representation for the environment has never been greater.

Given the current economic realities we all must face in 2009, our emphasis will be squarely on programmatic and policy work that is less cost – intensive than full – scale litigation, although the latter will always be necessary in some cases. The completion of our currently heavy litigation docket will require more financial support, but we think we have a proven track record of doing our work as lawyers very cost – efficiently. We spend a fraction of the dollars spent by our opponents when we go to court because we know how to litigate efficiently and because we are a low – overhead, “no frills” operation. We also see great opportunity in 2009 to achieve the objectives we share with you through the advocacy, and not the litigation, part of our work, by working closely with state and federal agencies whose views of the importance of environmental protection appear to have changed for the better under new leadership. As leaders ourselves within the environmental community we think we are in a position to be very effective in the coming year even at reduced funding levels. But we must to be able to maintain what we feel is an exceptionally talented and hard – working staff whose relationships with the agencies whose decisions will decide the fate of the south Florida ecosystem are crucial to our success.

Contributions to the Everglades Law Center are tax deductible, and can be sent to:

**Everglades Law Center, Inc.**  
**c/o Richard Grosso, Executive Director**  
**Shepard Broad Law Center**  
**Nova Southeastern Univ.**  
**3305 College Avenue**  
**Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314**

For more information about the ELC, visit us at [www.evergladeslaw.org](http://www.evergladeslaw.org)

*A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state at 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.*

## **2008 ACTIVITIES OF THE EVERGLADES LAW CENTER**

### **Our Major Donors**

Legal work is complex, time – consuming and expensive, and we simply would not be able to work as lawyers for the environment during 2008 without the very generous financial support, wise counsel and leadership of the following major donors, as well as many other individuals who have supported our work:

#### *Major Foundation Grants (25,000 and up)*

The Everglades Foundation  
The Janes Trust  
The Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation  
The Tsunami Foundation

#### *Individual or Corporate (\$10,000 to \$15,000)*

Manny Diaz Farms  
Anonymous  
Sally OConnell

#### *Individual or Corporate (\$2,500 to \$5,000)*

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
The Causey Foundation  
Eugene Cheston  
Donna Melzer

### **Our Partners and Clients**

In 2008 we continued to represent and work as partners with the organizations who are among the biggest stakeholders and experts in the protection and restoration of the south Florida ecosystem. Among our clients and partners were:

1000 Friends of Florida  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Clean Water Action  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Florida Keys Citizens Coalition  
Florida Keys Chapter of the Izaak Walton League  
Florida Keys Citizens Coalition  
Last Stand (*Protect Key West and the Florida Keys, Inc.*)  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
National Parks Conservation Association

Sierra Club  
Tropical Audubon Society

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

### **Miami-Dade County “Hold the Line” Campaign**

Our advocacy efforts had a mixed bag of success when the Miami-Dade County Commission denied several such requests but did expand its Urban Development Boundary in two locations to accommodate two commercial development projects. One change moved the “UDB” into wetlands connected to the Everglades to allow a home improvement store. The other moved the line to include farmland on the edge of the last remaining large agricultural area in the County. Both changes were contrary to clear policies in the County’s plan to protect the last remaining farmland and Everglades wetlands in the County, and to encourage redevelopment and infill development as the means of meeting the bulk of the County’s demand for new development. Representing 1000 Friends of Florida and the National Parks Conservation Association, we feel we have made a strong case against these amendments as unnecessary incursions into farms and wetlands which can not afford any more losses. We were able to help convince the state to object, and we intervened into the legal challenge on behalf of 1000 Friends of Florida and the National Parks and the matter proceeded to final hearing in December. A ruling is likely in the late spring, and a successful outcome would set a major precedent to stop the rapid march of development west towards the Everglades.

Earlier in the year, our advocacy and legal representation on behalf of the environmental community played a key role in stopping a proposed "Development of Regional Impact" that would have created a new town in the ecologically - rich East Everglades in southern Miami-Dade County that represents the unique diverse habitat between the saltwater Biscayne National Park habitats and the freshwater Everglades National Park habitats.

In 2009, we will continue to provide legal counsel and advocacy to environmental groups opposing a massive project that would move the Urban Development Boundary change in southwestern Miami-Dade County near Everglades National Park.

### **Atlantic Civil Project**

The ELC represented the NPCA and Tropical Audubon Society in a legal challenge to the issuance, by the Corps of Engineers, of a permit extension to Atlantic Civil Inc., which is attempting to develop a new city on over 1000 acres in the Model City area of the southeastern Coastal Everglades. In 2008, the application for this development was withdrawn, and the federal government rescinded the wetland filling permit, which was a major victory. The landowner then began to pursue limerock mining on the land, which we have been working to oppose.

### **Proposed Turkey Point Power Plant Expansion**

We have worked with several other organizations to object to the issuance of County zoning approval to allow a major expansion of the FP&L Nuclear Plant at Turkey Point on the shores of Biscayne Bay without clear and adequate protections related to water consumption, wetlands and saltwater intrusion. In 2009, we will be following closely the state Power Plant Siting Act process in an effort to ensure these protections.

## **Florida Keys Growth Management Issues**

The ELC is working to protect the biodiversity of the Florida Keys. Our effort to protect the irreplaceable natural resources of the Florida Keys has continued to be a significant part of our workload. We are representing the environmental group “Last Stand” in a challenge to a state wetland permit that would allow the destruction of the one of kind “Duck Pond” within the Salt Ponds of Key West to accommodate an expansion of the runway at the Key West Airport. At the end of the year, we were seeking a modification of the project to allow preserve this irreplaceable home to waterfowl and also meet the legitimate needs for airport operations, while at the same time preparing for a final hearing scheduled for the first week in January.

On a broader scale, our major campaign to ensure the long – term survival of the Florida Keys land – based native habitats (Our Florida Keys “Carrying Capacity” Project) achieved a major success this fall. Our intensive efforts on behalf of the Keys’ environmental community to secure significant revisions to Monroe County’s “Tier Overlay System” of protective zoning for the remaining Tropical Hardwood Hammocks in the County took a major positive step when we convinced Florida’s Governor and Cabinet to require a comprehensive set of revisions to the zoning maps based on updated habitat mapping. We have been working towards the goal of zoning maps that prevented development from exceeding the Keys’ ecosystem’s “carrying capacity” since our inception in the early 1990’s, and our legal victory in 2007 – which invalidated major parts of the County’s zoning system as being too weak – opened the door for this recent cabinet action. Beginning in early 2009, we will be part of a multi-agency and party working group that will work on the revisions necessary to finally put into place a zoning system in Monroe County that truly reflects the fact that the Tropical hardwood Hammocks and other endemic habitats can tolerate no further loss and in fact must be actively restored, and which directs all new development in the Keys into already impacted areas.

## **EAA Development**

In an intense year of major, high – profile efforts, perhaps none stood out more than events in the Everglades Agricultural Area. In June, Governor Crist’s announcement of an unprecedented initiative to acquire all of the 187,000 acres of land owned by the United States Sugar Corporation made headlines worldwide for its environmental and economic significance. The acquisition of lands in the EAA for the water storage has been known for decades to be the single greatest key to the ability of the state and federal government to truly restore the Everglades and meet its water supply and flood protection requirements for a growing population. But because the land was viewed as unattainable, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan currently on the books has over-relied on more costly, less – effective ways to meet south Florida’s water storage needs. The Governor’s initiative was a major breakthrough and promised Everglades Restoration success not previously believed to be realistically achievable. The ELC has worked with other members of the Everglades Coalition to analyze and provide advocacy in support of the proposed purchase.

Additionally, the ELC has spent a significant amount of time on the issue of mining within the EAA. Mining in the EAA threatens to compromise the water quality and hydrologic dynamics in this strategically located region. This spring the Palm Beach County Commission granted zoning approval for three mines covering over 17,000 acres in the EAA and we were

forced to bring suit on behalf of several environmental organizations. Those suits remain pending and are likely to proceed to trial in the spring of 2009.

General Counsel Richard Grosso agreed to serve, and played a very active role, as a Gubernatorial appointee to the State's *Strategic Aggregates Task Force*, which concluded its work in early 2008, with the adoption of a very good set of findings and recommendations that rejected the pre-emption of local government regulation of mining and other troubling proposals being made by the mining industry. The 2008 Legislative Session saw no legislation adopted on the subject despite the filing of a number of bills that would have reduced or precluded state or local regulation of mines, and the ELC played a strong role in opposing those bills.

### **Scripps / Mecca Farms**

The year 2008 brought final closure our hugely successful campaign to prevent the creation of a 2000 acre city on the edge of the Everglades in western Palm Beach County, and to instead have a world- class biotech campus located on a university campus in an urban infill location. Having previously forced the relocation of the Scripps campus to the Florida International campus in Jupiter Florida through our legal victory in federal court, in 2008 we finally settled all remaining litigation. We agreed with Palm Beach County on a comprehensive repeal/ revision to the set of comprehensive plan changes that had been adopted to allow the Scripps project and others like it. The Biotech Campus continues to proceed towards full construction at the FIU site, which we and our clients had advocated from the beginning. At the same time, County planning staff unveiled a promising proposal to the use the Mecca Farms site, where the project had originally been planned, for a combination of water management and rural home sites.

### **Palm Beach County Western Region Land Use Amendments**

We continued to represent environmental interests in a legal challenge to two comprehensive plan changes adopted in western Palm Beach County on the strength of the initial, but ultimately ill – fated, decision to site the Scripps project in that region. The developments approved by the amendments that we challenge are geographically located in rural areas of the County that we have historically expended significant resources to protect from urbanization and sprawl. Despite significant efforts during the year, we were unable to reach an amicable settlement and we were required to try these cases over a two – week period in the fall of 2008.

### **Martin County Rural Lands Protection**

The ELC continues to play an active role in Martin County land use issues, particularly those affecting the western portions of the County and the large expanses of land needed for the natural area restoration envisioned by the IRL plan.

In November, we tried the legal challenge to the so – called Martin County “Land Protection Incentives” comprehensive plan amendment, which, despite its name, allowed previously – prohibited suburban development throughout the entire 180,000 acre Agricultural area of western Martin County, much of it lands targeted for protection under the Indian River Lagoon component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. While billed as an

attempt to give landowners an incentive to preserve large areas of land for Everglades restoration or farmland protection, the plan amendment actually required no preservation of any sensitive land and allowed “set – aside” farmland to be used for all manner of intensive uses. Representing 1000 Friends of Florida and the Martin County Conservation Alliance, we are confident that we demonstrated in trial that this land use amendment violated the legal requirements for clear and enforceable development approval standards and for preventing urban sprawl. A ruling is expected during the late spring of 2009.

### **Martin County Green River Parkway**

The ELC is continuing to work with local conservation groups in opposing an attempt by the County to use several acres of conservation lands, wetlands, and Florida Scrub-Jay habitat to accommodate a proposed extension of the Green River Parkway in Northern Martin County.

### **Osceola County: Everglades Headwaters**

We successfully settled a legal challenge to changes to the Osceola County Land Use Plan by securing additional improvements (significantly over and above those being required by the state of Florida) to the rules that would apply to proposals for large - scale development projects at the headwaters of the Everglades. This project was a great example of how we can use our skills to achieve the protections necessary to restore and protect the Everglades in a cost – effective manner that avoids the time and expense of litigation.

### **Glades County Coal-Fired Power Plant**

This case was brought in 2007 to challenge the adoption, outside of the legally required process, of amendments to the Glades County Comprehensive Plan that would have allowed the siting of a very large regional electric power plan in this rural county in south Central Florida. After an investigation revealed that amendments had been made to the County’s rules (which did not allow such facilities in the subject area) without public notice and proper review by the state, we brought the challenge on behalf of local citizens, in an effort to prevent the approval of an inappropriate intensive land use in an unsuitable location. In the middle of the first day of trial, word came from Tallahassee that the Public Service Commission had denied the “need” certification for the proposed power plant. This effectively ended plans for the project, and our case was abated. Our corollary case – a lawsuit in Leon County Circuit Court to invalidate the state’s approval of the 2006 comprehensive plan amendments which had been adopted and approved (we allege and the state admitted) without complying with the proper statutory process – remained pending. It was important to continue to prosecute the case because, while the power plant project at issue appeared to be dead, the comprehensive plan continued to allow power plants in all lands designated Agriculture in the County. Approximately 85% of the land in Glades County is so designated. In late 2008, all litigation settled successfully with the repeal or significant revision of the comprehensive plan and ordinance changes that would have allowed the power plants.

### **Everglades Policy Work**

The ELC engaged in a multitude of other Everglades related land use policy. These activities run the gamut from speaking engagements at conferences on land use issues, meetings



with editorial board members on land use policy issues, to research, advocacy, or the provision of legal advice to environmental colleagues on short term or smaller scale projects.

On **wetland permitting** issues, we submitted an extensive comment letter to the SFWMD in response to a recent briefing by its regulatory staff that we felt painted a way – too limited picture of the District’s ability to protect wetlands. We see an opportunity with this new, good Governing Board, to make some improvements to how the District implements the ERP program and are taking on ERP reform as a major objective.

We submitted comments on the continued **rule development for the Rural Lands Stewardship Area Program** by the Department of Community Affairs, and on the **Programmatic Regulations Update** being prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

**Everglades Law Center, Inc.**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2008**

<b>Public Support and Revenues</b>	
Billable Expense Income	\$ 15,954
Individual Contributions	94,999
Client Paid	23,455
Grants from Foundations	259,766
Interest Earned	5,587
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<b>Total Public Support and Revenues</b>	<b>399,761</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Accounting	8,515
Bank Charges	100
Casual Labor	37,154
Conference calls	2,240
Depreciation	695
Dues & Subscriptions-	
District Court, Fla. Bar, Subscriptions	1,942
Electric	1,320
Employee Medical Expenses	6,665
Internet	489
Litigation Costs-	
Consultants, Expert Witnesses, Court Reporter & Filing Fees	14,849
Malpractice, DO Insurance & General Liability	4,205
Mileage, Parking, Tolls	4,295
Office Expense	4,538
Payroll Tax Expense	20,168
Payroll Processing Fees	1,004
Postage & Shipping	453
Postage Meter Rental	309
Printing/Copies	2,909
Reimbursements	509
Rent	14,843
Salaries and Wages	263,749
Seminars, Conference, Education, Research Materials	2,668
State & Government Filing Fees	261
Telephone	10,709
Travel- Air Fare, Car Rental, Hotel and Meals	11,780
	<hr/>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>416,369</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Net Change in Assets</b>	<b>\$ (16,609)</b>

## WHO WE ARE

The Board and staff of the ELC are leaders in the field of environmental and land use law, and are active locally, regionally, state-wide and internationally.

### Senior Staff

#### **Richard Grosso, Executive Director And General Counsel**

Richard Grosso is the Executive Director and General Counsel of the Everglades Law Center (ELC), formerly the Environmental and Land Use Law Center, Inc., a public interest law firm which represents citizens in South Florida in cases that defend the public interest in environmental and land use matters concerning the Florida Everglades, Florida Keys and Martin County. Mr. Grosso directs the ELC's public interest litigation practice and clinic at the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, where he is an Assistant Professor. He specializes in land use, growth management and environmental policy and permitting issues.

Mr. Grosso is a former Legal Director for 1000 Friends of Florida, and is also a former attorney for the Department of Community Affairs and Department of Environmental Regulation. Mr. Grosso has an extensive litigation and appellate practice in the area of growth management and land use law, including property rights law. He has represented many clients in administrative and judicial proceedings involving Florida's Growth Management Act and environmental permitting matters. He frequently appears before local governments and other bodies concerning land use issues.

Mr. Grosso has successfully litigated a number of important and precedent setting cases, including Pinecrest Lakes v. Shidel, where demolition of buildings erected in violation of a local comprehensive plan was ordered by the courts, 1000 Friends of Florida v. Monroe County, the precedent - setting case on the issue of carrying-capacity - based planning, Sierra Club, et al v. Miami-Dade County, which overturned the state approval for a commercial airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base, and Fla. Wildlife Fed. & Sierra Club v. US Army Corp of Engineers, which halted construction of the Scripps Research Institute on the fringe of the Everglades in western Palm Beach County and resulted in the relocation of the project to an urban infill area. He won a major victory for citizen enforcement of the Growth Management Act in Poulos v. Martin County, which guaranteed citizens the right to a de novo trial in plan consistency challenges, and co-authored an influential amicus curie brief in the ground-breaking case of Brevard County v. Snyder. In his prior service to the state of Florida, he successfully argued the inverse condemnation cases of McKay v. DER and Namon v. DER, which strengthened the state's ability to protect wetlands on private property; DCA v. Withlacoochie Regional Planning Council, which upheld the state's authority to require Regional Policy Plans to be consistent with the State Comprehensive Plan; and Homebuilders and Contractors v. Dept. of Community Affairs, which upheld the state's ability to discourage urban sprawl.

Mr. Grosso frequently writes and lectures on growth management and land use issues, including property rights law. His most recent article is *Old McDonald Still Has a Farm: Agricultural Property Rights After the Veto of S.B. 1712*, The Florida Bar Journal, March 2005, at 41.

Mr. Grosso has won major awards for his work on behalf of Florida's environment. In 1995 he was named Individual of the Year by the Key West environmental group Last Stand, in 1997 was

presented with the Hal Scott Memorial Award by the Florida Audubon Society for legal advocacy on behalf of the environment, in 1999 was named the Florida Wildlife Federation's Conservationist of the Year, in 2000 was granted the Public Service Award by the Martin County Conservation Alliance and was named as the Environmentalist of the Year by CityLink Newspaper (Broward & Palm Beach Counties), in 2002 was named Conservationist of the Year by the Everglades Coalition and the Audubon Society of the Everglades, in 2005 received the Sierra Club's Florida chapter's *William K. 'Red' Howell Legal Services Award*, and was named the Most Effective Environmental Lawyer in south Florida by the Daily Business Review for 2005.

### **Lisa Interlandi, Regional Counsel**

Lisa Interlandi is the ELC Treasure Coast Regional Counsel and the Project Manager for the ELC's Northern Everglades Project. Operating out of the ELC's West Palm Beach office, Lisa's primary practice areas are environmental and land use law, with a focus on greater Everglades restoration issues, including implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and land use and environmental permitting decisions in Palm Beach and Martin Counties which impact Everglades restoration efforts. Lisa has nine years experience as an environmental lawyer and in 2006, was honored with the Everglades Coalition Conservationist of the Year Award. Prior to joining the ELC, she served as Assistant General Counsel with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee focusing on state lands and natural resource litigation. Lisa obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and graduated from the Florida State University College of Law, Magna cum Laude, in 1998.

### **Robert Hartsell, Trial Counsel**

Robert N. Hartsell is Trial Counsel at Everglades Law Center's West Palm Beach office. Robert's primary practice areas are environmental, growth management, land use and Everglades restoration law including Federal NEPA, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act litigation. Prior to joining the ELC, Robert practiced Environmental, Land Use, Administrative and Governmental Law. Robert also has 12 years experience in Environmental consulting and engineering field of hazardous materials remediation. As such, he provided consulting services to a host of government, private, and international entities on environmental permitting, site assessments, contamination assessments, remedial action, risk-based corrective action, quality assurance planning, laboratory management, underground storage tank administration, and government reimbursement programs. Robert received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida and his J.D. with honors from Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center. Robert is a member of the Florida Bar and United States District Court Southern District of Florida. Mr. Hartsell is a recent joint recipient of the Conservationist of the Year award from Florida Wildlife Foundation and the Public Interest Lawyer of the year award from the Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Law Section.

### **Jason Totoiu, Staff Counsel**

Jason Totoiu is ELC's Staff Counsel, with responsibilities for litigation and non – litigation projects from the Keys to Martin County. Jason's expertise is in federal environmental practice and procedure, in particular the NEPA, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Prior to joining ELC in 2006, Jason practiced environmental law in Florida and Alabama where he specialized in endangered species and water quality issues. Jason earned a B.A. from Emory University in 2000 and his J.D. from Tulane Law School in 2004. He is a member of the Florida Bar and United States District Court, Southern District of Florida.

### **Amy Miller, Legal Fellow**

Amy Miller is the Legal Fellow at the Everglades Law Center, and works out of the ELC's Ft. Lauderdale office. Amy works directly with the ELC's Executive Director and General Counsel and assists in the management of all facets of the administration of the ELC and management of its complex and high profile projects and legal cases. Amy received her B.A. in Political Science from Creighton University in 1996 and graduated from Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center in 2008.

### **Members Of The Board**

#### **Thomas T. Ankersen**

Thomas T. Ankersen is an attorney and Director of the University of Florida College of Law's Conservation Clinic, an interdisciplinary clinical program in applied legal education that operates both domestically and internationally. Ankersen also directs the UF Center for Governmental Responsibility's Conservation Law Program, a program of applied research, policy development and training that lends supports to governmental and non-governmental organizations in Latin America. He recently began a Summer Program in Environmental Law in Costa Rica. He is an affiliate faculty member at the University of Florida's Center for Latin American Studies.

Ankersen holds a J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law where he was a member of the Law Review, served as President of the Environmental Law Society, and received the Dean Maloney environmental law writing award. He holds B.A.'s in English and History and an M.A. in History from the University of South Florida where he specialized in environmental history. Prior to joining the law school, Ankersen served as an attorney in the Denver and Tallahassee offices of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Prior to that he was senior litigation associate in the law firm of Peeples, Earl and Blank in Miami, Florida, where he specialized in environmental litigation. Prior to law school Ankersen worked as an environmental planner for a design firm in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Ankersen has published numerous articles and essays in the area of conservation law and policy, as well as in the area of environmental history. He has provided testimony to congressional and legislative bodies in matters related to his expertise and frequently advises governmental and non-governmental institutions in these matters. Ankersen currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Environmental and Land Use Law Center, is a member of the Tropical Ecosystems Directorate of the United States Department of State Man and the Biosphere Program, a member of the Board of Directors of the Forest Management Trust and serves on the Board of Advisors of Florida Defenders of the Environment.

#### **Richard Hamann**

B.A., University of Florida 1971

J.D., University of Florida 1976, with honors

Richard Hamann is an attorney, researcher and teacher at the University of Florida Levin College of Law's Center for Governmental Responsibility. Mr. Hamann has conducted research on a wide variety of environmental, land use and water management issues. Current research interests include the management of large scale ecosystems for ecological sustainability, the protection of natural systems in water management, the development of protected areas systems and basin management in Latin America, and African wildlife management. Mr. Hamann has taught the following courses and seminars in the College of Law: Environmental Law--Water, Wetlands and Wildlife; Water Law; Wetlands Law and Policy; International Environmental Law and Policy; Transboundary Environmental Issues in the Americas (coordinator), Ecosystem Management: the Everglades Case Study, Florida Ecosystems: Ecology, Management and Law and Comparative Environmental Law: U.S., Florida and Costa Rica.

Mr. Hamann is Immediate Past-Chair of the Environmental and Land Use Law Section of The Florida Bar, President of Florida Defenders of the Environment, Vice-President of the Alachua Conservation Trust and on the Board of Directors of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

### **Laurie Macdonald**

Laurie Macdonald, a wildlife zoologist based in St Petersburg, FL, is the Director of Florida Programs for the national nonprofit conservation organization Defenders of Wildlife. Laurie had her own wildlife consulting practice for over 16 years working on endangered species and habitat protection, management, research and education. Combining science and advocacy continues to be of crucial concern to Laurie who is on the national Endangered Species Coalition Board of Directors and served as the national Sierra Club's Endangered Species and Habitats Chair for many years, and has been the Florida Sierra Club's Biodiversity Chair. Currently, Ms. Macdonald's work deals primarily with habitat protection, transportation issues, endangered species issues, conservation of biological diversity through informing and catalyzing citizen action, both lobbying and partnering with governmental agencies, working with public and private land owners and managers, legislative lobbying, providing expert testimony, and other efforts to protect biodiversity. Throughout her career, Ms. Macdonald has worked from the local through the international level. She has represented Defenders of Wildlife and Sierra Club at international conventions on biodiversity.

Ms. Macdonald has a BA is from the University of Oregon, and an MS from the University of South Florida.

### **Professor Joel A. Mintz**

Joel A. Mintz is a tenured Professor of Law at Nova Southeastern University Law Center, where he has taught Environmental Law and related subjects since 1982. He holds a B.A. from Columbia University, a J.D. from N.Y.U. School of Law, and LL.M. and J.S.D. degrees from Columbia Law School. Prior to joining the Nova Southeastern law faculty, Professor Mintz was an attorney and chief attorney with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Chicago and Washington, D.C. He participated in a number of significant, precedent-setting environmental lawsuits and he was a recipient of the EPA's Bronze Medal for Commendable

Service, as well as the Agency's Special Service Award, for his outstanding legal and supervisory efforts. Mintz has published extensively in the fields of Environmental Law and State and Local Taxation and Finance. He has authored or co-authored four well-received books in these areas, as well as numerous articles in such prestigious journals and law reviews as the Harvard Environmental Law Review, The Yale Journal of International Law, the Columbia Journal of Environmental Law, the Georgetown International Environmental Law Review, and the A.B.A.-sponsored Environmental Lawyer. Professor Mintz's biography appears in Who's Who In America, Who's Who in American Law, the Directory of American Scholars and Contemporary Authors. He is an elected member of both the International Council of Environmental Law and the Environmental Law Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and a past chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on State and Local Government Law (on whose board he has served since 1991). Mintz is also currently the only lawyer or legal academic serving as a member of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council's Committee on Source Removal of Contaminants in the Subsurface.

### **David J. White, J.D.**

Mr. White is Director of The Ocean Conservancy's Southeast Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, where he is responsible for regional activities on fish conservation, water quality protection, recovery of endangered marine wildlife, and ecosystem conservation issues. Prior to joining The Ocean Conservancy, Mr. White maintained an environmental law practice representing public interest clients in citizen-suit litigation and environmental advocacy on matters involving wildlife law, endangered species, wetlands, forest management on public lands, environmental permitting, land use, and river restoration. Mr. White also served for nine years as Regional Counsel for the National Wildlife Federation in Atlanta, Georgia, where his practice focused on issues related to the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and National Forest Management Act. He is a member of the Florida and Georgia state bars and numerous federal appellate circuits, and is a frequent lecturer and writer on environmental law issues. Mr. White is a former Chairman of the Board of the Florida Wildlife Federation, and also serves on the board of the Environmental and Land Use Law Center. Mr. White is a Contributing Author and Special Editor for the Treatise of Florida Environmental & Land Use Law. Mr. White received his J.D. with Honors from the University of Florida College of Law, his Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Florida.

### **Janet Reno**

Janet Reno has had a long standing and unprecedented career in the legal field, as well as a great love for the environment. She grew up in the Everglades and as quoted in her opening statement at her Senate confirmation hearings upon her nomination as Attorney General by President Clinton, "I want to remember the splendid skies of the city I love, and the Everglades and the coral reefs that I've explored all my life, and I want to see that the laws of this country are enforced in every way possible to protect the environment." In 1971, Ms. Reno was named staff director of the Judiciary Committee of the Florida House of Representatives. In 1978, she was appointed State Attorney General of Miami-Dade County and was returned by voters four more

times. In 1993 she became the 78<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of the United States and the first woman to hold the position. She served under President Clinton until 2001, the longest serving attorney general since the Civil War. As the Chief Law Enforcement officer, Ms. Reno enforced policies on civil rights, race relations, corruption, the environment, gun control and immigration. Today she devotes her time to numerous causes including children's issues, domestic violence and preservation of the Everglades and other environmental concerns. Ms. Reno has served on the board of directors of the Everglades Law Center since 2003. Ms. Reno received a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Cornell University and an LL.B. from Harvard Law.

For more information about the ELC, visit us at [www.evergladeslaw.org](http://www.evergladeslaw.org)

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