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The Environment and the Law

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The Environment and the Law

The papers in the remainder of this issue are based upon remarks originally presented at the Federalist Society's Seventh Annual Lawyers Convention, *The Environment and the Law*. Held in Washington, D.C., on September 10-11, 1993, the Convention featured thirty speakers representing a broad range of perspectives—from government, the judiciary, academia, and private practice. The speakers addressed issues spanning virtually the entire spectrum of environmental law and engaged in provocative discussions with members of the audience. The editors have reproduced much of that discussion following each series of remarks.

Approximately 500 lawyers, judges, and others interested in public policy attended the Convention and debated the role of law in resolving environmental problems. Notwithstanding broad differences in philosophical approach to government, the speakers and the members of the audience frequently agreed both on the nature of specific problems and on the limitations both of command-and-control regulation and of market-based solutions. While some of the participants expressed surprise at this wide agreement, it is perhaps a fitting testimony to the success of the Convention in meeting its sponsor’s goal of advancing public discourse on environmental issues beyond the rhetoric that too often characterizes the debate.

This investigation could not be more timely. The environment is a primary focus of the regulatory state, the driving force for much legal change, and the centerpiece of emerging developments relating to international law and trade. The editors of the *Ecology Law Quarterly* are proud to be the publishers of this Convention. We hope that this unique compilation of views provokes further discussion and debate.

The editors would like to thank the Federalist Society for organizing the Convention and for inviting the *Ecology Law Quarterly* to print the proceedings. We would also like to thank the participants for agreeing to commit their presentations to publication.

*Board of Editors*

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