

The Mighty Columbia



FEB. 27 & 28, 2025

ROYAL SONESTA
PORTLAND
DOWNTOWN
Portland, OR

ACCREDITATION

OR CLE, WA MCLE,
ID CLE, APA, OESAC
(see inside for details)

THE SEMINAR GROUP ~ RAISING THE BAR OF CONTINUING LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Seminar Overview

The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest, and the 4th largest river in the United States. It drains an area the size of France, and extends into seven states and British Columbia. The River serves as critical habitat for 13 ESA-listed species of salmon and steelhead, and is of paramount importance to Native cultures, serving as a bountiful source of tribal subsistence. The River is also home to 14 Federal hydroelectric dams on the mainstem, providing 44% of hydropower consumed in the U.S., and is of critical importance to navigation interests, providing a navigable highway for the transportation of goods and products from the Inland Empire to the Pacific Ocean, and ultimately the Far East.

This seminar will delve into the complex legal, economic and policy conflicts that result from competing uses of this vital natural resource.

Who Should Attend:

Attorneys
Engineers
Municipal Employees
Conservationists
Government Employees

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**The Mighty Columbia
Thursday, February 27, 2025**

9:00 Introduction and Overview – Day One
PST **Brent H. Hall**, Program Co-Chair
Hall Law PLLC

Lindsay Thane, Program Co-Chair
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC

9:10 Fisheries Management 101
Brent H. Hall, Moderator
Hall Law PLLC

Stuart Ellis, Harvest Management Biologist
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Coby Howell, Senior Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice

Charlene Hurst, PhD, Columbia River Mgmt. Lead
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

10:30 Break

10:45 Pacific Northwest Regional Energy Study
Jason G. Eisdorfer, Policy Advisor
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

11:30 Hatchery Production Update
Becky Johnson, Production Division Director
Dept. of Fisheries Resource Management, Nez Perce Tribe

12:15 Midday Break

1:30 View from the Ports and Navigation Industry
The river and it's many uses
Scott Corbitt, General Manager
Port of Lewiston, Idaho
Leslie Druffel, Outreach Director
The McGregor Company
Heather Shaver, Government Affairs Director
Shaver Transportation Company

2:45 Break

3:00 Reintroduction of Salmon in Upper Columbia
Charles "Chuck" Brushwood, Sr. Policy Advisor
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Michael Garrity, Special Asst. for Columbia River Policy
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Claire McGrath, Deputy Manager
Environmental Services, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

4:15 Tribal Interest in the Columbia River
Monte Mills, Professor of Law/Director
Native American Law Center, UW School of Law

5:00 Adjourn & Reception ~ Sponsored by:



Schwabe

**The Mighty Columbia
Friday, February 28, 2025**

9:00 Introduction and Overview – Day Two
PST **Brent H. Hall**, Program Co-Chair
Hall Law PLLC

Lindsay Thane, Program Co-Chair
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC

9:05 National Wildlife Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service – a Brief History
Brent H. Hall
Hall Law PLLC
Lindsay Thane
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC

9:30 Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement
Review of the largest fisheries restoration effort in America; litigation; Columbia basin restoration initiatives; status of NEPA review

Michael Garrity, Special Asst. for Columbia River Policy
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Clark Mather, Executive Director
Northwest RiverPartners

Kathryn E. Marckworth, Senior Staff Attorney
Yakama Nation Office of Legal Counsel

Jim McKenna, Columbia Basin Federal Advisor
Oregon Governor's Office of Natural Resources

11:00 Break

11:15 Wild Fish Conservancy v. NOAA Fisheries
WDFW against the Lower River Mitchell Act Hatcheries
Christopher D. Fontecchio, Attorney-Advisor
Northwest Section, NOAA Office of General Counsel

12:15 Midday Break

1:30 Columbia River Treaty with Canada Agreement in Principle
NWF v. NMFS litigation and litigation stay; salmon recovery perspectives; what's next
Dena Horton, Deputy Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Jill R. Smail, Lead Negotiator
Columbia River Treaty, U.S. Department of State
Michael Tehan, Senior Policy Advisor
Interior Columbia Basin Office, NOAA Fisheries

2:45 Break

3:00 Ethical Considerations
Nellie Q. Barnard
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC

4:00 Stock Status Update
Ritchie Graves, Branch Chief
Columbia Hydropower Branch, NOAA Fisheries

5:00 Adjourn

Faculty - The Mighty Columbia



Brent H. Hall, Program Co-Chair, is a Member of Hall Law PLLC. His practice focuses on Native American treaty rights, environmental, natural resource, real estate and land use, and water rights related matters. He represents tribes in federal, state and tribal courts.



Jason G. Eisdorfer is an energy policy advisor at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He supports the experts in the Energy Policy, Economics and Planning Group as they further energy sector transformation into a cleaner, more equitable system.



Lindsay Thane, Program Co-Chair, is a shareholder at Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC. She helps individuals and businesses resolve disputes and navigate permitting processes through strategic counsel on water rights, natural resources, and environmental issues.



Stuart Ellis has served as Harvest Management Biologist with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission for 22 years. His duties involve planning and implementing tribal fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon.



Nellie Q. Barnard is a shareholder at Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC. She provides clients with legal ethics and risk management advice. She also represents lawyers in attorney discipline matters and character and fitness proceedings, including on appeal.



Christopher D. Fontecchio is an Attorney-Advisor for the Northwest Section of NOAA's Office of General Counsel. He is active in private hydropower relicensing issues. Previously, he worked for the White House Counsel on Environmental Quality.



Charles "Chuck" Brushwood is a Senior Policy Advisor with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation's Fish and Wildlife Department. He provides policy support on fish and wildlife management with an emphasis on salmon and steelhead recovery.



Michael Garrity serves as Special Assistant for Columbia River Policy at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. His practice focuses on policy, siting, and mitigation for dams, renewable energy projects, and water use affecting fish and wildlife.



Scott Corbitt has served as General Manager for the Port of Lewiston, Idaho since June of 2022. He provides leadership and supervision to the staff and advises the Commissioners on the economic development activities of the Port.



Ritchie Graves has served as the Chief of the Columbia Hydropower Branch within NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region since 2006 where he has been responsible for staff working on mainstem Snake and Columbia River hydropower issues.



Leslie Druffel serves as Director of Outreach at The McGregor Company. She actively collaborates on public policy, rural economic development, and environmental issues while also engaging in agricultural literacy and workforce development projects.



Dena Horton joined the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association team in 2019 and currently serves as Deputy Director. She brings significant federal and regional experience and a deep knowledge of the issues and projects in PNWA's portfolio.

Coby Howell is a senior trial attorney with the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. He is responsible for litigation involving the Endangered Species Act, Magnuson Stevens Act, and other related wildlife statutes.

Jim McKenna is the Columbia Basin Federal Policy Advisor for the Oregon Governor's Office, with a focus on natural resource issues within the Basin that have a State/Federal government interplay. He works to rebuild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin.



Charlene Hurst, PhD, leads the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Columbia River Management Unit within the Fish Program. Her work is focused on the management of fish resources in the Columbia River.



Monte Mills is a Professor at the University of Washington School of Law and Director of the Native American Law Center. He teaches American Indian Law, Property, and other classes focused on Native American and natural resources related topics.



Becky Johnson is the Production Division Director for the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management. The Tribe utilizes artificial production to restore natural spawning runs and create harvest opportunities in the Nez Perce Treaty Territory.



Heather Shaver serves as the government affairs director for Shaver Transportation Company, a leader in the tug & barge business. She has been involved in Northwest maritime issues for nearly two decades working in the public, private and non-profit sectors.



Kathryn E. Marckworth is a Senior Staff Attorney with the Yakama Nation Office of Legal Counsel, which provides civil legal representation to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and its governmental programs, entities, and enterprises.



Jill R. Smail leads the U.S. negotiating team for the Columbia River Treaty at the Department of State. Before this assignment, she spent about eight years working with Middle East negotiating teams on water issues related to a final status agreement.



Clark Mather serves as Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners. He focuses on promoting and protecting the region's hydropower assets by sharing the vital role that clean, reliable, affordable hydropower plays for Pacific Northwest residents.



Michael Tehan is the Senior Policy Advisor for the Interior Columbia Basin Office in the West Coast Region of NOAA Fisheries. He leads a team of 40 employees to protect and conserve NOAA trust species and their habitat in the Interior Columbia River Basin.



Claire McGrath serves as Environmental Services Deputy Manager for the Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region, Bureau of Reclamation. She works to develop and implement regional programs to meet environmental regulatory requirements.

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Credits

OR CLE

This course is pending with the Oregon State Bar for 11.25 general and 1.0 ethics CLE credits (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast).

WA MCLE

This course is approved for 9.75 hours of law and legal credit, 1.0 hours of ethics, and 1.5 hours of other Nexus CLE credit by the Washington MCLE board (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Self-Study credit will be available upon request, specific credit amount to be determined. Go to our FAQ page for an explanation about Other CLE Credits. <https://www.theseminargroup.net/faq#product-othercredit>

The Seminar Group is an accredited sponsor with the Washington State Bar

ID CLE

This course is pending with the Idaho State Bar for 11.25 general and 1.0 ethics CLE credits (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Self-study credits can be applied for upon request.

APA

This course has been approved by the American Planning Association for 12.5 CM credits (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Credits for recorded courses available upon request.

OESAC

This course is pending with the OESAC for 1.2 drinking water CEUs (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Credits for recorded courses not available.

Location

Royal Sonesta Portland Downtown

506 SW Washington St
Portland, OR 97204

Phone: 503-222-0001

The seminar is located in the Alder Creek Room. Please call the hotel for directions/questions.

PARKING

Onsite parking is available. Please contact the venue for the current rate.

Fees

Live Seminar:

Attorney	\$849.00
Government / Tribal / Non-Profit	\$749.00
Other Professionals	\$749.00
Student / Professor	\$649.00
Day One	\$530.63
Day Two	\$530.63

Live Webcast:

Attorney	\$849.00
Government / Tribal / Non-Profit	\$749.00
Other Professionals	\$749.00
Student / Professor	\$649.00
Day One	\$530.63
Day Two	\$530.63

Pre Order On Demand:

All Sessions	\$849.00
Single Session	\$99.00

Pre Order MP3 Download:

All Sessions	\$849.00
Single Session	\$99.00

Pre Order Materials Download:

All Sessions	\$229.00
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Go to our website to register:
www.TheSeminarGroup.net or call our office at 206-463-4400. You can also contact us at info@theseminargroup.net or by mail to The Seminar Group, P.O. Box 523, Vashon, WA 90870.

CANCELLATION POLICY: We will refund your tuition, less a \$50 cancellation charge, if we receive your cancellation by 2/21/25. No refunds will be given after this date. Please note that if you do not cancel by the deadline and/or do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.

Register at

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