

Deepwater Horizon Litigation: Overview and Update

Environmental Law Institute
Wednesday, November 13, 2013 • 3:00pm-5:00pm CT

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

John C. Cruden

President, Environmental Law Institute



John has served as the fourth President of the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) since 2011. Prior to joining ELI, John served as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, a position he had held since 1995. At Justice, John supervised all federal civil environmental litigation involving agencies of the United States, and oversaw the Environmental Enforcement Section and Environmental Defense Section. He personally litigated and led settlement negotiations in numerous environmental cases. He has on three occasions received the Presidential Rank Award, from three different Presidents, and has also received the Department of

Justice's Muskie-Chaffee Award, the Federal Bar Association's Younger Award, and the American Bar Association's Mary C. Lawton Award for Outstanding Government Service. He is also a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army. John was raised in Michigan and is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, University of Santa Clara, and University of Virginia.

Blaine G. LeCesne

Donna and John Fraiche Distinguished Professor of Law, College of Law, Loyola University



Professor LeCesne is the Donna and John Fraiche Distinguished Professor of Law at the Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans where he teaches Torts, Civil Procedure, and Trial Practice. He received his bachelor's and law degrees from Columbia University. Prior to joining the Loyola law faculty, he practiced commercial litigation at law firms in New York City and New Orleans. Professor LeCesne has authored articles on the BP oil spill litigation and has been frequently interviewed and quoted as an expert legal analyst on the case by a variety of print, television, and radio media, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, PBS, Al Jazeera Television, and Voice of Russia.

Mark Schleifstein

Environment Reporter, The Times Picayune



Mark has worked at NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune since 1984. In 2011, the Press Club of New Orleans honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. His stories on the BP *Deepwater Horizon* Oil spill were among The Times-Picayune work honored with the 2010 Edward J. Meeman Award for environmental reporting from the Scripps-Howard Foundation National Journalism Awards program. His reporting during and after Hurricane Katrina was among the newspaper's stories honored with 2006 Pulitzer Prizes for Public

Service and Breaking News Reporting and the George Polk Award for Metropolitan Reporting. He is the co-author with John McQuaid of "Path of Destruction: The Devastation of New Orleans and the Coming Age of Superstorms," published by Little, Brown & Co., in August 2006. Stories written with McQuaid prior to Katrina on coastal science issues were honored in 2006 with a special award from the American Geophysical Union. He is married to Diane Schleifstein, and they have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Joel Waltzer

Partner, Waltzer Wiygul & Garside



Joel is a native New Orleanian. He graduated magna cum laude from Boston University and from Harvard Law School, then clerked for the Louisiana Supreme Court before joining the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic as one of its first supervising attorneys. For the past twenty years, Joel has litigated civil and environmental cases, including Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, NEPA, L.E.Q.A. and RCRA cases for an array of public interest and community groups and private clients. He served on the Committee on Environmental Affairs of the Louisiana Law Institute and testified before state and federal legislative bodies on natural resource and Stafford Act debris removal issues.