

The Environmental Law Society & *Environs* Today and the Future

As the environmental movement faces new challenges and fundamental changes, so does the Environmental Law Society (ELS) at King Hall. Worldwide environmental awareness swells as humans feel the impact of an overtaxed Earth in ways never before imagined. However, federal and state budgets allocated to environmental protection, regulation and enforcement shrink. Environmentalists cite numerous reasons for the monetary cut-backs, from the 1980's era of deregulation to the current fiscal crisis, but whatever the reasons the impacts are evident.

The University of California and ELS have experienced that budgetary pinch. Last year, university funding for ELS-sponsored *Environs* shrank by \$1,000. Yet, *Environs* maintains a dedicated staff and the unwavering support of our faculty advisor, Harrison C. Dunning. In January the *Environs* staff, under the leadership of Adam Torem, produced the largest and most comprehensive *Environs* ever, despite these financial difficulties. The expanding pool of qualified contributors and the support of our ever-widening audience shape the success of *Environs* today and for the future. If the current issue is any indication, we are on the right track.

1992 marks the beginning of a transitional period for ELS and *Environs*. Our increasingly diverse membership dictates that ELS widen its activities, but this growth brings certain pains. As ELS engages in more projects we wish to continue the marked improvement in *Environs* seen in the last two issues. Toward that end, ELS is currently in the process of writing a mission statement and charter as well as proposed changes in the operations of *Environs* to insure its continued excellence. Serving as a guide, we believe the charter will promote the substantive advancement of *Environs* while simultaneously expanding the ability of ELS to organize other projects.

This year's accomplishments were impressive, and the next few paragraphs highlight some of them and consider some proposals for the future:

* On February 8, 1992, ELS held its annual environmental law conference on Toxics Law. Thanks primarily to the hard work of Elizabeth Coppage and Jenny Decker the conference was a success. Notably, 1992 marked the first year we offered Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit for attending attorneys. In 1993, ELS hopes to expand the conference, not only to attract more environmental attorneys and activists, but to spark a greater interest in the general public as well. In next year's conference on air pollution, ELS will hold panels on local, national and international issues. The volatile topic of air pollution should attract a diverse and enthusiastic audience, and promises to make the 1993 Conference the best ever.

* Last November, ELS helped coordinate the grand opening of the Yolo Environmental Resource Center. Yolo ERC is a coalition of Davis student and community groups dedicated to the environmental movement. As a founding member group, ELS hopes to spearhead the expansion of environmental law services to the Davis community through the Center. In addition, ELS envisions itself as the primary resource for Yolo ERC member groups in need of legal research.

* ELS wholeheartedly supports instituting a new Environmental Law Moot Court program. This year, Dawn Andrews, Daniel Muller and Adam Torem represented U.C. Davis in the 4th Annual Environmental Law Moot Court Competition at Pace University in New York. The U.C. Davis team continued to the Quarter-Final Round and missed advancing to

ELS will coordinate a panel discussion entitled "Race, Economics and the Environment."

the Semi-Finals by a single point. Congratulations are in order, especially for Mr. Torem and Ms. Andrews: each won Best Oralist honors in their preliminary rounds. A recent proposal to expand the King Hall Moot Court Program to include Environmental Law Moot Court has received tentative approval by the King Hall administration. ELS is devoted to seeing this proposal become a reality, but financial support remains an unresolved issue and could bar implementation of an excellent proposal.

* Next semester, ELS will coordinate a panel discussion entitled "Race, Economics and the Environment." Ideally, ELS will co-sponsor the discussion with the ethnic caucuses here at King Hall, including La Raza and Black Law Students Association, as well as the King Hall Legal Foundation.

ELS now faces a crucial time. Our goal is to effectively expand the reach of ELS to address the ever-growing realm of environmental issues. Over the years, *Environs* has successfully done just that. Yet, ELS and *Environs* are threatened by the budgetary cutbacks. We need your continued support. Recently, *Environs* sent out subscription renewals and new subscription requests. When considering your renewal or pondering a subscription to *Environs*, please consider all the activities of our Environmental Law Society. Remember, *Environs* depends on ELS funding and only you can turn that around in these tight financial times. Thanks for your continued support!

Paul Quade and Ariane Pannell, Co-Chairs



CALL FOR PAPERS

1993 U.C. DAVIS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE

Next Year's topic will be Air Pollution. We invite all of our readers to submit their suggestions for panel discussion topics as well as research or policy analysis papers which may be presented at the conference. Send all materials to ELS at UC Davis School of Law, Davis, CA, 95616.