The University of Maryland School of Law Environmental Law Program invites you to attend

“The Data Gaps Dilemma: Why Toxic Ignorance Threatens Public Health”

The 2005 Ward, Kershaw Environmental Law Symposium Held in Conjunction with The Center for Progressive Regulation (CPR)

Friday, May 6, 2005

To be held at
American Association for the Advancement of Science Building
1200 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

For additional information contact:
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“The Data Gaps Dilemma”

The Ward, Kershaw and the Center for Progressive Regulation’s (CPR) Data Gaps Symposium will explore the types of data gaps that hinder regulatory efforts to protect public health and the environment, analyze what creates and exacerbates these data gaps, and then work to construct solutions for closing such gaps. Using flaws in EPA’s Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) as context, we will compare toxics testing requirements in programs at the state, national and international levels to understand options for information generation. Next we will examine what limits IRIS from fulfilling its potential compared to other testing programs. We will spend much of the afternoon discussing an affirmative agenda to accomplish the goal of closing or filling data gaps. The symposium is jointly sponsored by CPR and the Ward Kershaw Environmental Law Symposium fund.

CPR’s previous research in this area revealed astonishing gaps in the toxics knowledge base. For instance, using IRIS as context, CPR discovered that over one-fifth of the Clean Air Act’s Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) were missing from IRIS, and for those HAPs that were included, assessments were on average over ten years old. Similar gaps were found when comparing IRIS to pollutants regulated under other environmental statutes. Further analysis of EPA’s research budget and planning process provided insight into some of the factors that contribute to data gaps on the ground level including declining federal research dollars and a labyrinthine priority-setting and planning process that highlights the lack of coordination within and between federal agencies.

Based on this initial work, CPR is expanding the scope of our inquiry to more broadly address the dearth of information on many toxic chemicals, what creates and exacerbates these data gaps, and how best to close such gaps. We will have an introductory talk and one panel in the morning focusing on types of data gaps and information generation from a variety of testing and registration programs. In the afternoon we will present and discuss factors that exacerbate data gaps at the federal level. The conference is intended to encourage participation from our invited audience, and much of the afternoon is dedicated to a discussion of strategies for solutions to the data gaps dilemma.

Katherine Baer
Coordinator

The Ward, Kershaw Environmental Law Symposium

The Ward, Kershaw Environmental Law Symposium was established by a gift to the University of Maryland’s Environmental Law Program from the Baltimore law firm of Ward, Kershaw LLP. The purpose of the endowment is to fund an annual symposium on environmental law. Ward, Kershaw is one of Baltimore’s oldest “boutique” litigation law firms specializing in complex civil litigation and class actions.
PANEL 1 – DATA GAPS AND PROGRAM TESTING REQUIREMENTS
9:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Moderator: David Adelman, CPR/University of Arizona School of Law
Presentation: Matt Shudtz, University of Maryland School of Law

- This panel will summarize data gaps from IRIS and then present and compare toxic testing requirements from California, National Toxicology Program, High Volume Testing Program, REACH, IARC, and explain how information generated from these sources is used, or not used, in IRIS.

- Participants: Melanie Marty, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (invited); Richard Denison, Environmental Defense; James Huff, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (invited); John Applegate, CPR/Indiana University School of Law; Dr. Katherine Squibb, CPR/University of Maryland School of Toxicology.

WORKING LUNCHEON - 11:30 - 12:00 NOON

PANEL 2 – WHAT EXACERBATES THE DATA GAPS PROBLEM
12:00 - 1:45 p.m.
Moderator: Anita Nager, Beldon Fund
Presentations: Katherine Baer, CPR, and Simone Baribeau, Center for Science and the Public Interest

- This panel will identify and explain some of the factors that preclude solving the data gap problem by focusing on problems with IRIS. Such problems include: poor planning, low federal research budgets, legislative structure/legal incentives, and industry capture.

- Participants: John Bucher, National Toxicology Program; Mary Lyndon, CPR/St. John’s University School of Law; Erik Olson, NRDC; Rena Steinzor, CPR/University of Maryland School of Law.
The Center for Progressive Regulation (CPR)

The Center for Progressive Regulation (CPR) is a nonprofit research and educational organization of university-affiliated academics with expertise in the legal, economic, and scientific issues related to regulation of health, safety, and the environment. CPR supports regulatory action to protect health, safety, and the environment, and rejects the conservative view that government’s only function is to increase the economic efficiency of private markets.

The Environmental Law Program

Founded in 1987, the Environmental Law Program of the University of Maryland School of Law provides students with specialized preparation for careers in the field of environmental law. The Program has developed a broad and innovative curriculum, an Environmental Law Clinic, and a Concentration Certificate in Environmental Law that students may qualify to receive upon graduation.
REGISTRATION FORM
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Registration Fee - $20.00
(Continental Breakfast and Luncheon included)
Alumni of the Environmental Law Program - no charge
May pay at door - must call or email to reserve space

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: UM Baltimore Foundation, Inc.

Please complete and return to:
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Name________________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________________
City/State_____________________________________________________________
Daytime Telephone Number______________________________________________
email address__________________________________________________________

Funds for the 2005 Ward, Kershaw Environmental Law Symposium are administered by the University of Maryland Foundation, Inc.

Directions:
Parking is limited. We suggest the following transportation:
To get to the AAAS Building at 1200 New York Avenue, N.W., take red line to Metro Center and exit at 12th & G Streets. Turn right when you reach street level onto 12th Street and walk one block. The AAAS Building is at the corner of 12th & H & New York Avenue.