

**2026 ENVIRONMENTAL  
& LAND USE LAW SECTION**

# MIDYEAR MEETING & CONFERENCE

**THURSDAY, MAY 14 - FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026**  
At The Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA

---

**IN-PERSON &  
WEBCAST**

**WSBA|CLE** *Invested in your success.™*

**2026 ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
LAND USE LAW SECTION**

# MIDYEAR MEETING & CONFERENCE

**THURSDAY, MAY 14 - FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026**

---

***Join us in person or remotely for the  
Environmental and Land Use Midyear!***

We will be in Vancouver at the stunning Heathman Lodge this year as well as broadcasting live online. Hear from professionals from around the state and region speaking on crucial topics and updates. In addition to helpful programming, attendees will be provided ample time to be with colleagues and explore the Columbia River valley.

---

## **THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

**Headwaters Law Group**

**Veris Law Group**

**Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson P.S.**

**Dickson Frohlich Phillips Burgess**

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
LAND USE LAW SECTION

# MIDYEAR MEETING & CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MAY 14 - FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

**WSBA CLE - #26739VAN & #26739WEB**

## IN-PERSON & WEBCAST

### REGISTRATION - ONLINE:

- **#26739VAN:** In-Person
- **#26739WEB:** Webcast

9.25 CLE CREDITS:	L&LP	Ethics	Other
2026 Environmental and Land Use Law Section Midyear Meeting & Conference	7.25	1.0	1.0

TUITION:	In-Person Pricing	Online Pricing
ELUL Section Members	\$449	\$389
Standard/Non-Section Members	\$489	\$429
Join the Section (\$40) and register at the Section member rate	\$489	\$429

*Presented in partnership with the WSBA Environmental and Land Use Law Section*

### CO-CHAIRS:

- **Gabrielle Gurian** - Perkins Coie LLP, Bellevue
- **Erica Li** - Veris Law Group PLLC, Seattle
- **Hannah Solomon** - Veris Law Group PLLC, Seattle

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

*The Environmental and Land Use Law Section is offering two scholarships toward 2026 ELUL Midyear Conference costs and expenses. Application deadline: 5 p.m. PT on April 1, 2026. For more information on the scholarship and how to apply, please click [here](#).*

# Lodging Information

There is a **limited block of discounted rooms** at The Heathman Lodge held for attendees until April 13, 2026, based entirely on space availability. Once they are filled, room prices may increase. Room reservations made under the WSBA room block are intended for attendees of the Midyear Conference only.

The WSBA room block is for Wednesday and Thursday nights, May 13 and 14, at the rate of \$184 plus taxes and fees.

*If a non-attendee would like to stay in the area, please find accommodations outside of the WSBA room block.*

## TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM

Use this **BOOKING LINK** to secure your hotel reservation or scan the QR code >



### Heathman Lodge

7801 NE Greenwood Dr.  
Vancouver, WA 98662

**PHONE:** 360.254.3100

**EMAIL:** [info@heathmanlodge.com](mailto:info@heathmanlodge.com)

**DINING:** [hudsonsbarandgrill.com](http://hudsonsbarandgrill.com)



# DAY 1 | THURSDAY > MAY 14, 2026

**9:00 a.m. > Check-in • Walk-in Registration • Morning Refreshments**

**9:45 a.m. > Webcast Sign-In Opens**

**10:00 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions  
by Planning Committee and Section Chair**

- **Gabrielle Gurian** - *Perkins Coie LLP, Bellevue*
- **Erica Li** - *Veris Law Group PLLC, Seattle*
- **Hannah Solomon** - *Veris Law Group PLLC, Seattle*
- **Jason Foust** - *Office of the Attorney General, Olympia*

**10:15 a.m. > 2026 Legislative Update**

**60 minutes, 1.0 credit L&LP**

What happened in the Washington State Legislature? There were numerous environmental and land use policy bills. What passed? What failed?

- **Jacob Lipson** - *Washington House of Representatives, Olympia*
- **Kellen Wright** - *Office of Program Research, Olympia*



**11:15 a.m. > Federal Changes, State Reality: A Consultant's  
Perspective on Environmental Programs in Washington**

**30 minutes, 0.5 credit L&LP**

This presentation explores how recent federal regulatory rollbacks affect environmental programs in Washington, from an environmental consultant's perspective. It highlights why state-administered programs largely remain stable while also addressing impacts to grants and federal funding at the state level.

- **Anna Poliski** - *Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc., Seattle*

(DAY 1 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

# DAY 1 | THURSDAY > MAY 14, 2026

## 11:45 a.m. > An Emergency Because We Say So: DOE Pushes Boundaries and Buttons With 'Emergency' Orders

60 minutes, 1.0 credit L&LP

In May 2025, the Trump Administration began unleashing a series of emergency orders pursuant to section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act directing the continued operation of coal plants that were slated to shut down due to age or conversion to natural gas. These orders, previously only issued in times of actual emergencies, were admittedly an attempt by the Administration to prop up the coal industry at any cost—including significant increases in energy costs to consumers in impacted areas. This session will cover the legal issues at play, the basis and status of the emergency order directed at Washington's TransAlta Centralia power plant, potential impacts to consumers in Washington and throughout the Pacific Northwest, and where litigation over this controversial practice is headed.

- **Kelly Wood** - *Washington Attorney General's Office, Olympia*

## 12:45 p.m. > LUNCH

## 2:00 p.m. > Update on Affordable Housing Initiatives in Washington

45 minutes, 0.75 credit L&LP

This presentation provides a comprehensive update on state legislation, local ordinances, and other efforts to unlock housing supply and affordability at all income levels. Among other things, it will cover important bills passed during the 2026 state legislative session, anticipated developments in the 2027 session, and a few city-level highlights.

- **Taylor Haines** - *Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson P. S., Seattle*
- **Joshua Friedman** - *Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson P. S., Seattle*

## 2:45 p.m. > BREAK

## 3:00 p.m. > 2025-2026 Land Use Case Law Update

60 minutes, 1.0 credit L&LP

Hear about the Growth Management Hearing Board's stadium district zoning decision, Comprehensive plan challenges, and more.

- **Daniel Mitchell** - *Seattle City Attorney's Office, Seattle*
- **Issac Patterson** - *Tharsis Law P. S., Seattle*

## 4:00 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

5:30 p.m. >  
RECEPTION

# DAY 2 | FRIDAY > MAY 15, 2026

**8:15 a.m. > Check-in • Walk-in Registration • Morning Refreshments**

---

**9:00 a.m. > Webcast Sign-In Opens**

---

**9:15 a.m. > Navigating Land Use and Energy Demand for Data Centers in the Pacific Northwest**

*60 minutes, 1.0 credit L&LP*

The expansion of data center development is shaping energy and land use planning across the Pacific Northwest. This panel brings together leaders from government, industry, and the utility sector to examine the challenges and opportunities that large-scale data center load growth presents. Join Dr. Glenn Blackmon, Michael Jung, Josh Jacobs, and Senator Sharon Shewmake for a timely and well-informed conversation.

- **Sen. Sharon Shewmake** - *Washington State Senate, Olympia*
- **Dr. Glenn Blackmon** - *Former Director, Washington Energy Policy Office, Olympia*
- **Josh Jacobs** - *Puget Sound Energy, Bellevue*
- **Michael Jung** - *Modern Hydrogen, Woodinville*

**Moderator: Megan Lin** - *Perkins Coie LLP, Bellevue*

---

**10:15 a.m. > BREAK**

---

**10:30 a.m. > Power and Ports: Challenges and Opportunities for Washington's Public Port Districts Facing Energy Adequacy Constraints**

*60 minutes, 1.0 credit Other*

Washington's public ports are currently facing challenges aligning competitiveness and regional economic growth with increasing energy demands. In some cases, there is not enough energy supply to support the expansion of current businesses or recruitment for new opportunities. A reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy future will require collaboration on actionable solutions, including support for energy infrastructure, generation, and efficient permitting. This presentation will highlight port's role in energy and potential new opportunities.

- **Carly Michiels** - *Washington Public Ports Association, Olympia*

(DAY 2 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

# DAY 2 | FRIDAY > MAY 15, 2026

## 11:30 a.m. > Energy Storage: Siting and Permitting BESS

30 minutes, 0.5 credit L&LP

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are an essential element to achieving Washington's carbon reduction goals and ensuring a resilient grid. But BESS projects often face regulatory challenges and local opposition. This session will survey the current status of BESS development in Washington, summarize regulatory trends, address land use and siting hurdles, and provide considerations when permitting BESS projects.

- **Ryan Thomas** - *Perkins Coie LLP, Bellevue*

## 12:00 p.m. > LUNCH

## 1:15 p.m. > ELUL Section Annual Meeting

## 1:30 p.m. > The Six Sovereigns' Vision for Salmon Recovery in the Columbia River Basin, and Recent Legal Updates

90 minutes, 1.5 credit L&LP

The Six Sovereigns (the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Nez Perce Tribes, and the States of Washington and Oregon) share a vision and blueprint for basin-wide salmon recovery called the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI). This panel will discuss the Six Sovereigns' continued collaboration and how they are pursuing the CBRI's goals despite the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement. Panelists will also discuss how ongoing litigation, including the recent preliminary injunction issued by the District of Oregon to protect Columbia River salmon from hydropower impacts, affects the outlook for Columbia Basin salmon recovery solutions.

- **Miles Johnson** - *Columbia Riverkeeper, Hood River, OR*
- **Kathryn Marckworth** - *Yakama Nation Office of Legal Counsel, Toppenish*
- **Michael Garrity** - *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia*

## 3:00 p.m. > Your Ethical Obligations When Your Expert Witness Uses AI

60 minutes, 1.0 credit Ethics

Your next expert witness will probably use AI. What does that mean for you? This session will talk about the ways that expert witnesses will use AI and how those uses implicate your obligations under the Rules of Professional Conduct.

- **Chris Baird** - *Headwaters Law, Seattle*

## 4:00 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

# 2026 Environmental and Land Use Law Section Midyear Meeting & Conference

PAGE 9

Thursday, May 14 - Friday, May 15, 2026 • #26739VAN & #26739WEB

## REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the [registration page](#). Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to [Washington sales tax law](#).

If special accommodations are needed, please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

Registrations received less than 48 hours before a seminar are not guaranteed a coursebook or other presentation materials on-site. If special accommodations are needed, please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) or call toll-free at **800-945-9722**.

### PRICING INFORMATION

**#26739VAN, attend in Vancouver, WA**

5/14/26 through 5/15/26

- \$449** ELUL Section Members
- \$489** Standard/Non-Section Members
- \$489** Join the Section (\$40) and register at the discounted rate (\$449)

**#26739WEB, attend via webcast**

5/14/26 through 5/15/26

- \$389** ELUL Section Members
- \$429** Standard/Non-Section Members
- \$429** Join the Section (\$40) and register at the discounted rate (\$389)

*When you choose "Join the Section," you receive the discounted section tuition rate plus a year membership to the Environmental & Land Use Law Section, which includes discounts at future CLEs plus other member benefits.*

### Seminar Registration Transfers, Refunds and Cancellations

In most circumstances, if you cannot attend the live event, we can transfer your registration to the on-demand product, once available (8-10 weeks from the program delivery date). Generally, for webcast/ webinar registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed up to the start of the event. For in-person registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed by 5 p.m. up to three business days before the event. No refunds will be provided after the dates specified. You may also send a substitute in lieu of canceling. *When applicable, specific exceptions to these policies will be noted on individual event registration pages.* Please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) with any requests or questions.

**ONLINE >** Go to [www.wsba.org](http://www.wsba.org) and enter **26739** in the search box. Payment by credit card.

**PHONE >** Call **800-945-9722** or **206-443-9722** with credit card and registration/order form in hand. Our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.