# Stephen E. Herrmann Environmental Writing Award

## ACOEL

2025 Annual Meeting Boston, Massachusetts September 18-20, 2025

## The Stephen E. Herrmann Environmental Writing Award

Founded in 2010, The Herrmann Award honors the legacy of Stephen E. Herrmann, a nationally respected environmental lawyer who has dedicated over forty years to the field as a practitioner, teacher, and author. A graduate of Princeton University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Mr. Herrmann has been a guiding force in shaping modern environmental law and advancing its ethical practice. Through this award, the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL) celebrates his leadership and role in establishing the College.

According to a November 3, 2024, e-mail from Stephen E. Herrmann, the idea for the Herrmann Award began with Michelle Corash, ACOEL's second President, who proposed a student writing award with initial funding from ACOEL to inspire future lawyers to engage with environmental law. Mr. Herrmann notes that when his two sons heard about the idea, they contacted Ms. Corash and offered to contribute an additional amount annually. The Herrmann Family and the ACOEL Foundation have continued to support funding for the Award together over the years since. Today, in 2024, the recipient receives \$3500, travel and accommodations for the Annual Meeting, and their publishing journal receives \$500.

Each year, the award highlights exceptional student scholarship that brings new perspectives to environmental law, fostering a new generation of passionate, knowledgeable leaders committed to addressing today's environmental challenges.

Mr. Herrmann notes that ACOEL members have been "deeply impressed with the scholarship, and often the passion, of the articles" submitted, recognizing the Award as a meaningful tradition that encourages excellence and innovation in environmental law.



### 2025 Winner

## Nathan Spindler-Krage



Mr. Spindler-Krage is this year's winner. The College is delighted to welcome Nathan Spindler-Krage, graduating from University of Iowa College of Law in 2026, who will present on his Herrmann Award winning note, What Are You Doing in My Swamp? Reconciling Swampbuster, Civil Society, and Sustainability.

## Past Winners & Their Journey

Kelly McGee

In 2022, Ms. McGee won the Herrmann Award for her article, A Place Worth Protecting. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, she now serves as a Legal Fellow at The Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law.



**Emma Shumway** 



Isaac Lunt

In 2023, Ms. Shumway won the Herrmann Award for her article. Wood Pellet Production in the U.S. South and Exportation for 'Renewable' Energy in Europe: The New Green Sacrifice Zone. She holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School and currently works as a Judicial Law Clerk for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

In 2024, Mr. Lunt won the Herrmann Award for his winning article, Toward Distributed Nature: The Afforestation Easement and a Regenerative Land Ethic. A 2024 Columbia Law School graduate, currently works at Cooley LLP as a Law Clerk.

## Past Winners & Their Journey



**Kate Bowers** 

In 2010, Ms. Bowers received the Herrmann Award for her note, Saying What the Law Isn't: Legislative Delegations of Waiver Authority in Environmental Laws, published in the Harvard Environmental Law Review. She is currently a Supervisory Attorney and Section Research Manager at the Congressional Research Service and holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

In 2011, Mr. Popovsky won the Herrmann Award for his piece published in the Columbia Law Journal while attending Columbia Law

School. He is currently Special Counsel at

Sullivan & Cromwell.



Mark Popovsky

In 2012, Mr. Trego received the Herrmann Award for his article, We Didn't Start the Fire...And We Won't Pay to Stop It: Financing Wildfire Management in America's Wildland-Urban Interface, published in the William & Mary Environmental Law & Policy Review. He is now a partner at Manko Gold Katcher and Fox LLP and is a graduate of William and Mary Law School.



**Garrett Trego** 



Alexander Bandza

In 2013, Mr. Bandza earned the Herrmann Award for his note, Epidemiological-Study Reanalyses and Daubert: A Modest Proposal to Level the Playing Field in Toxic Tort Litigation, which addresses fairness in toxic tort cases. He is now a partner at Barnes & Thornburg and holds a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.

\*Herrmann Awards were not given out in the years 2014 and 2015\*

## Past Winners & Their Journey

## In 2016, Ms. Weintra for her article, *NEPA*

Irene Weintraub

In 2016, Ms. Weintraub won the Herrmann Award for her article, NEPA and Uncertainty in Low-Risk, High-Impact Scenarios: Nuclear Energy as a Case Study, while attending the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She is currently an Associate at Kramer Levin.



Jin Hyung Lee

In 2017, Ms. Lee won the Herrmann Award for her comment, Establishing Applicable Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters on Indian Reservations, published in the Emory Law Journal. A graduate of Emory University School of Law, she currently serves as a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice.



Emily Rebecca Hush

In 2018, Ms. Hush won the Herrmann Award for her article, Where No Man Has Gone Before: The Future of Sustainable Development in the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and New Generation Free Trade Agreements. She earned her J.D. from Columbia Law School and is currently an Associate at McMillan LLP.

## Past Winners & Their Journey



Joshua Landis

for his article, Sunny and Share: Balancing Airspace Entitlement Rights Between Solar Energy Adopters and Their Neighbors. He is currently an Associate at Latham & Watkins and holds a J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School.

In 2019, Mr. Landis won the Herrmann Award



**Nina Lincoff** 

In 2020, Ms. Lincoff won the Herrmann Award for her piece published in the *California* (*Berkeley*) Law Review. She earned her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and currently serves as a Deputy Attorney General at the California Department of Justice.



Madeeha Dean

In 2021, Ms. Dean won the Herrmann Award for her article, *An Environmental FOIA:*Balancing Trade Secrecy with the Public's Right to Know, while attending the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She is currently a Judicial Law Clerk for the U.S.

District Court for the Eastern District of California.