

2025 National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Seminar

November 19 - 21 | W Nashville | Nashville, TN

Draft agenda currently as of October 31, 2025

All meeting spaces are on the Second Level unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, November 19

Morning

8:00 – 12:00

Registration

Gathering Space

9:00 – 12:00

Plenary Session I

Great Room

Welcoming Remarks

Mickey Conway, NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

2025 Seminar Overview

Devon Goodrich, Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law Division
New York City Department of Law | New York, NY

Emily Jackson, Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee
Chief Legal Officer
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

9:20 – 10:45

Clean Water Act Primer

Prepare yourself for the next three days of legal discussions with this perennial favorite back-to-basics course on all things Clean Water Act. Whether you're new to the sector or you've dealt with more NPDES permits than you can shake a stick at, you'll be glad you sat in to hear one of the best in the business provide a rundown of the statutory and regulatory underpinnings of the law and enforcement trends facing the sector today. If you need a refresher on water quality standards development, the skinny on what "waters of the United States" means this month, or your yearly reminder that the Clean Water Act has a Section 401 (and it's complicated!), this is your chance to get suited up before you get thrown into the deep end.

Speaker

Erika Powers, Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP | Ann Arbor, MI

10:45 – 11:00

Networking Break

11:00 – 12:00

Finding Regional Solutions to National Challenges: How Utilities are Turning to Regionalization to Alleviate Growing Legal and Financial Pressures

From PFAS and biosolids management to federal funding cuts accompanied by increased permitting requirements, utility leaders today are having to think creatively about how best to affordably meet the legal and regulatory demands of tomorrow.

This panel will explore how utilities are turning to regional solutions to address the seemingly endless list of legal liabilities being placed on them in a way that doesn't break the backs of their communities.

Moderator

Mickey Conway, NACWA President

Panelists

Laurie Horridge, NACWA Board Member

Executive Director

Narragansett Bay Commission | Providence, RI

Jamie Heisig-Mitchell, Co-Chair, NACWA's Water Quality Committee

Chief of Water Quality

Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

Charles Stephens, Senior Executive Policy Director

National Rural Water Association | Washington, DC

Afternoon

12:15 – 2:00

*Living Room,
First Level*

Networking Luncheon

Connect and collaborate at the special Networking Luncheon, featuring small-group discussions tailored for the clean water legal community. Join peers in exploring emerging legal issues, exchanging practical insights, and building meaningful professional relationships. Strengthen your network while enjoying a provided lunch in a discussion-driven setting.

2:00 – 4:30

Gathering Space

Registration

2:15 – 5:00

Great Room

Plenary Session II

2:15 – 3:30

Keynote Address: How States are Approaching Clean Water Issues in Challenging Times

Utility leaders are keenly aware of the many local challenges to providing safe, affordable clean water services, but state agencies are under pressure to deliver results as well. Come hear from our keynote speaker, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner David Salyers, as he shares what issues are top of mind for state regulators, how states are rising to meet their clean water obligations, and what public utilities can do to be the best partners in helping attain clean water goals.

Keynote Speaker

David Salyers, Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation | Nashville, TN

3:30 – 3:45

Networking Break

3:45 – 5:00

PFAS Liability: Where Is This All Going & What Can Utility Leaders Do About It?

From class action litigation and billion-dollar legal settlements with PFAS manufacturers to state biosolids legislation, EPA risk assessments, and CERCLA hazardous substance designations, there is a lot being thrown at clean water utilities concerning potential PFAS liabilities on a daily basis. This roundtable discussion among utility leaders and legal experts will explore the most pressing PFAS issues facing the sector and how utilities can be preparing for them.

Moderator

Jennifer Harrington, General Counsel & Legislative Liaison
Narragansett Bay Commission | Providence, RI

Panelists

Mike Witt, NACWA Board Member
General Counsel
Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission | Newark, NJ

Matt Edling, Partner
Sher Edling LLP | San Francisco, CA

Beth Card, Senior Policy Advisor
Smith, Costello & Crawford | Boston, MA

5:00

Closing Remarks

Evening

5:30 – 6:30

*Living Room,
First Level*

Welcoming Happy Hour

Kick off the *Seminar* by joining us at the Welcoming Happy Hour. Connect with fellow attendees, reconnect with familiar faces, and network in a relaxed atmosphere. Happy Hour is open to all so enjoy a quick bite and meet us there!

Thursday, November 20

Morning

8:30 – 12:00

Gathering Space

Registration

9:00 – 12:00

Great Room

Plenary Session III

9:05 – 10:30

Water We Doin' on Combined Sewer Overflows?

As utilities continue to put combined sewer overflow (CSO) controls in place and communities begin to reach the end of their long-term control plans (LTCPs), many questions remain about what post-LTCP NPDES permits will look like. This expert panel of utility leaders and attorneys will discuss what efforts are currently underway on issues impacting CSO communities, including EPA's national affordability guidance, water quality standards applicable to CSO-receiving waterbodies, and imposition of end-of-pipe limits on CSO discharges.

Panelists

Ann McIver, Director, Environmental Stewardship
Citizens Energy Group | Indianapolis, IN

Theo Theocles, Director of Legal Affairs
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission | Agawam, MA

Will Gardner, Partner
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP | Indianapolis, IN

Trent Stober, Senior Vice President
HDR Engineering, Inc. | Columbia, MO

10:30 – 10:45

Networking Break

10:45 – 12:00

So the Supreme Court Ruled, Now What? Real-World Implications of Supreme Court Decisions on Clean Water Utilities

The Supreme Court has been busy making headlines with landmark decisions on agency deference, APA reviewability, NPDES permitting, NEPA implementation, and diversity requirements, just to name a few topics. But what has actually changed in the day-to-day world of a clean water utility as a result? This panel of legal experts will break down the impacts the Supreme Court's decisions over its last few terms are having on the sector and how utilities can respond.

Panelists

Allyn Stern, Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. | Seattle, WA

Gary Gold, Of Counsel
Best Best & Krieger LLP | Washington, DC

Nathan Vassar, Partner
Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. | Austin, TX

12:00

Closing Remarks

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

Afternoon

12:15 – 2:00

Lunch on Your Own

2:00 – 4:00

Registration

Gathering Space

2:00 – 5:00

Plenary Session IV

Great Room

2:00 – 3:15

Renegotiating Consent Decrees: Is Now the Time?

With every new administration comes a new approach to federal enforcement and the age-old question: is now the time to try to renegotiate the terms of my utility's consent decree? This panel of experts will explore the new opportunities and challenges presented by the shifting enforcement landscape, including those related to affordability, compliance schedules, and switching from federal to state enforcement.

Panelists

David Uhlmann, Partner
Marten Law | Washington, DC

F. Paul Calamita, Chairman
AquaLaw PLC | Richmond, VA

Fredric Andes, Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP | Chicago, IL

3:15 – 3:30

Networking Break

3:30 – 5:00

Top Clean Water Legal Developments of the Year (Closed to Press and Regulators)

To say the courts have been busy this year would be an understatement. Federal funding impoundments, DE&I requirements, and the authority to issue nationwide injunctions have all been front and center. Oh yea, and some environmental law decisions, too, including one out of the Supreme Court involving San Francisco...Come and hear this group of top clean water lawyers review the most important court decisions and legal developments of the past year and analyze the impacts they could have on your utility's operations.

Moderator

Hilary Meltzer, Chief, Environmental Law Division
New York City Department of Law | New York, NY

Panelists

Jordan Wimpy, Attorney
Mitchell Williams, PLLC | Little Rock, AR

Devon Goodrich, Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee

Erika Spanton, Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. | Seattle, WA

Evening

6:00 – 7:00

Reception

Great Room
Terrace

Friday, November 21

Morning

8:30 – 10:30

Registration

Gathering Space

9:00 – 12:00

Plenary Session V

Great Room

9:00 – 10:15

Nutrients – Can't Live Without 'Em (Literally), But How Do Utilities Live With 'Em?

Nutrient discharges continue to pose challenges for clean water utilities across the country. Along the Delaware River, federal takeover of the standards process and a focus on endangered species have led to the adoption of stringent criteria that will definitely cost ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars while only possibly aiding fish propagation. Meanwhile, across the country in the Puget Sound, an ambitious nutrient reduction plan is being considered that would place a lot of that ambition on the backs of utilities and their ratepayers. Join this panel of experts as they discuss various challenges – and potential solutions – to solving seemingly intractable nutrient dilemmas from coast to coast.

Panelists

James Tupper, Partner
Marten Law | Seattle, WA

Kelly Anderson, Director, Office of Watersheds
Philadelphia Water Department | Philadelphia, PA

Jared Voskuhl, Director of Regulatory Affairs
California Association of Sanitation Agencies | Sacramento, CA

Brian Bakke, Wastewater Director
HDR Engineering, Inc. | Columbia, MO

10:15 – 10:30 **Networking Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **Ethical Issues in the Representation of Public Water Utilities**

This session will provide an analysis of ethical issues in connection with the representation of public water utilities. Topics will include identifying conflicts of interest, communication with represented and unrepresented parties, and protecting confidential information.

Speaker

Steven Christopher, Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility | Nashville, TN

12:00 **Closing Remarks**