

On Thin Ice: International Law and Environmental Protection in a Melting Arctic

16th Annual Herbert Rubin and Justice Rose Luttan Rubin International Law Symposium
October 22, 2010, Greenberg Lounge, New York University School of Law

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 9:00-9:30 Registration/Breakfast
- 9:30-10:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:00-11:00 **Keynote Address**
Peter Taksøe-Jensen, Danish Ambassador to the U.S. and former UN Assistant Secretary General for Legal Affairs.
- 11:00-12:30 **Panel One**
The Promise and Threat of an Accessible Arctic

This panel sets the stage for the forthcoming discussions by describing recent changes in the Arctic Region, and the responses of various nations to those changes. Speakers will discuss the melting of Arctic sea ice and its impacts on the region's marine life, the international conflicts that have risen to the surface in recent years, and the territorial claims that different countries have already asserted under existing law. This substantive background will be helpful in understanding and engaging in the subsequent panel's discussions of the legal impacts of these changes and possible policy responses.

*Confirmed speakers include **Lisa Speer**, Director, International Oceans Program, Natural Resources Defense Council, and **Ross Virginia**, Myers Family Professor of Environmental Science, Dartmouth College,*

- 12:30-1:30 **Lunch Break**
- 1:30-3:00 **Panel Two**
**Governance and Dispute Resolution in the 21st Century Arctic:
Is Law of the Sea Up to the Task?**

This panel focuses on the primary mechanism for asserting and resolving territorial disputes in the Arctic: the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Speakers will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this treaty, whether reforms (or new, Arctic-specific agreements) are needed to resolve looming disputes, the case for and against U.S. ratification of Law of the Sea, and U.S. policy towards other nations' Arctic Claims. These issues have substantial geopolitical and environmental impacts, as the Law of the Sea Convention is currently a leading forum for environmental negotiations and regulation on the high seas.

*Confirmed Speakers include **Christopher Joyner**, Professor and Co-Director, Institute for International Law and Politics, Georgetown University, and **Rebecca Bratspies**, Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law*

3:00-4:30

Panel Three
New Approaches to Arctic Environmental Management

This panel will explore both domestic and international approaches to conserving the diverse and vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Arctic region from the increasing threats of overfishing, ship strikes, and pollution from new commercial activities. Speakers may discuss existing efforts to protect Antarctic marine resources and whether they are transferable to the Northern hemisphere; the role of the United Nations Arctic Council in protecting the marine environment; and the possibility of implementing ecosystem based management frameworks, as opposed to the traditional focus on species-by-species management. Since Arctic waters fall within both U.S. and international jurisdiction, this field leaves substantial opportunity for innovation on both a domestic and global level.

*Confirmed speakers include **David Caron**, C. William Maxeiner Distinguished Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Law of the Sea Institute, Boalt Hall, University of California-Berkeley School of Law, **Brian Van Pay**, U.S. Department of State, and **Peter H. Oppenheimer**, Senior Counselor for International Law, Office of General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

4:30-5:00

Closing Remarks