

Dear *ELQ* Alum,

I hope you will help *Ecology Law Quarterly* establish a new, endowed, environmental diversity scholarship.

Forty years ago, *ELQ* broke new ground as one of the first environmental law journals in the country. Over the ensuing four decades, *ELQ* has remained at the forefront of the environmental movement, publishing cutting-edge articles, challenging conventional wisdom, and disseminating crucial information and perspectives to academics, policy makers, and practitioners.

Our journal is an important component of Boalt Hall's preeminent environmental law program, whose faculty and breadth of course offerings are virtually unrivaled. *ELQ* is at the heart of a tight-knit community of environmentally oriented student groups.

These elements attract a critical mass of students who pursue their environmental law education with a dedication and intellectual intensity found nowhere else. Our greatest resource is not our printed material, nor our longevity, but our people, the chain of *ELQ* members who link our past to our future to make us what we are, and who have always planned ambitiously for what we can be.

Yet in spite of this vibrant history, the environmental community at Boalt suffers from a problem common to the environmental community at large. We are, in some important ways, too homogeneous. Our community's diversity lags behind that of other communities at Boalt and behind other successful social movements. This is no trivial obstacle. As environmentalists, it weakens our message—which is to say, the messages of John Muir and of Rachel Carson, of Aldo Leopold and of Luke Cole, and many others. If our goal is to spread that message and improve the way humankind interacts with its environment, our homogeneity holds us back.¹

We believe it is the duty of every environmental organization, including ours, to promote and embrace diversity. So, just as we did forty years ago, *ELQ* is looking to break new ground. This year, the journal is raising money to endow a scholarship for incoming students of diverse backgrounds who demonstrate a commitment to the environment. By building a more diverse *ELQ*, we aim to strengthen Boalt Hall as an epicenter of cross-cultural environmental law scholarship. In turn, we believe this will expand the cultural reach of Boalt's environmental law graduates, and help spread the ethics behind a robust body of environmental law to a greater range of communities.

¹ For data on this problem, and suggested solutions, see Marcelo Bonita, *How to Diversify Environmentalism? The Movement's Greatest Challenge Is Its Own Lack of Diversity*, GRIST (Jan. 2, 2008, 12:28 PM), <http://www.grist.org/article/how-to-diversify-environmentalism>.

***Ecology Law Quarterly* is putting its money where its mouth is: The journal is in the process of placing \$50,000 of its own reserves into an endowed fund, the proceeds of which will go toward funding these scholarships.**

But we cannot do it alone. We challenge and invite you to be part of changing the face of the environmental community again, just as we did forty years ago. Please help continue the legacy of environmental leadership that has been such an integral part of *ELQ*'s history. Help keep us at the forefront of the environmental community, and keep *ELQ* the vital contributor it has been since day one.

With this letter, *ELQ* is kicking off a campaign to raise \$40,000 from our alumni this year, with a minimum of \$1000 from each class since our founding in 1971. We plan to conclude our first campaign at our Fortieth Anniversary Banquet this spring (Expect your invitation soon!). When we achieve our goal, we will be able to award one admitted student each year, in perpetuity, an estimated \$4000, and pay the award out over the course of the student's three years at Boalt Hall. This award will often crystallize the admitted student's decision to attend Boalt, and will signal to all potential applicants that diversity is a priority of Boalt's environmental program and of *ELQ* in particular.

Will you please join us with a contribution of \$250, \$500 or the most you can afford today? Please contribute whatever you are able. It adds up.

You can donate by clicking [here](#) or by calling 510-642-2590.

With many thanks,

Danny Kramer
Editor in Chief, 2010-11
Ecology Law Quarterly