

Our responsibility as life tenants is to make certain there are wilderness values to honor after we have gone. William O. Douglas

The Douglas Forum on Conservation Law builds on the legacy of William O. Douglas – United States Supreme Court Justice from 1939-1975 – whose judicial opinions, books and political work revealed the potential for the law to effectively conserve natural resources. Douglas was especially concerned about dams on free-flowing waters such as the Red River Gorge in Kentucky. Although Douglas' thinking on natural resource conservation was broad in scope, his legal perspective was grounded in his formative experiences in Washington State's Yakima River region in the Pacific Northwest' Columbia River Basin.

The Douglas Forum undertakes research, scholarship and advocacy on strategies to engage the law to improve management of rivers in the United States and worldwide (particularly transboundary rivers that span multiple nations) to better conserve and restore fisheries.

The director of the Douglas Forum – Paul Stanton Kibel – is professor emeritus of water law at Golden Gate University, author of the book Riverflow: The Right to Keep Water Instream (Cambridge University Press 2021), projects chair for the International Association for Water Law (AIDA), and on the advisory boards for the California Water Law Symposium and San Francisco Baykeeper. Since 2014 he has served as natural resource counsel for the Water and Power Law Group. He holds a B.A. from Colgate University in New York, an LL.M. from the University of California-Berkeley Law School and is a Ph.D. in Law candidate at the University of Manchester International Law Centre in England.

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