College of Law
Gina Guy Center for
Land and Water Law

GINA GUY CENTER FOR LAND AND WATER

2025–2026 Academic Year in Review



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The 2025–2026 academic year was an exciting and productive one for the Gina Guy Center for Land and Water at the University of Wyoming College of Law, and the pages that follow capture the breadth of work that made it so. Led by faculty co-directors Professors Temple Stoellinger and Jason Robison, the Gina Guy Center takes a holistic approach to natural resource stewardship, seeking solutions that balance conservation and sustainable use. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, the Center brings together expertise in law, environmental science, policy, and natural resource management to address evolving challenges involving public and private lands, water, wildlife, energy, and other natural resources.

The Center pursues this mission through faculty and student research, experiential education, conferences and public forums, and partnerships with practitioners, policymakers, Tribal Nations, agencies, organizations, and communities throughout Wyoming and the West.

At the heart of this work are our students. The Center provides UW law students who are passionate about natural resource law with opportunities to work directly on research and scholarship, help organize and participate in conferences and forums, learn in the field, and build relationships with professionals working on the issues they hope to address in their careers.

HONORING GINA GUY

The Center is proud to carry the name of Gina Guy, whose career and commitment to public service continue to provide an example for our students.

Gina was a two-time graduate of the University of Wyoming, earning a B.A. in History in 1964 and her J.D. from the UW College of Law in 1975. She went on to a distinguished legal career spanning several decades, including service as a lawyer and Regional Solicitor for the U.S. Department of the Interior and later as Deputy General Counsel for the U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon.

Gina was passionate about the environment and the outdoors, making it particularly fitting that her name is associated with a Center dedicated to natural resource law and policy. In 2020, the Patten-Davis Foundation made a gift to the University of Wyoming in Gina's honor, helping support the Center and its work.

Her legacy of public service, legal excellence, and commitment to the natural world continues to inspire the Center's work today.

Our Students: The Heart of the Gina Guy Center

During the 2025–2026 academic year, Emily Wangen served as the Gina Guy Center Student Director, working alongside Student Research Fellows Bethany Aragon, Molly Bretthauer, Colton Goldfarb, Olivia Thomas, Zach Thomas, and Kaleb Palmer.

Our Student Director and Research Fellows are integral members of the Center. They work alongside faculty on substantive research projects, contribute to scholarship, and help plan and coordinate conferences, forums, and other Center programs. In the process, they gain direct experience with natural resource law and build relationships with practitioners, policymakers, Tribal leaders, agency officials, scholars, and others working in the field.

CELEBRATING STUDENT DIRECTOR EMILY WANGEN

Emily Wangen served as our Student Director throughout the 2025–2026 academic year and graduated from the University of Wyoming in May 2026.



Following graduation, Emily moved to Oregon, where she is pursuing an LL.M. at the University of Oregon School of Law. She hopes to pursue a career in natural resource law with the federal government.

Emily's path reflects what we hope the Gina Guy Center can help students accomplish: turn an interest in natural resource law into substantive expertise and ultimately a career in the field. We are incredibly proud of Emily and excited to see where her career takes her.

2025–2026 STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWS

Our Student Research Fellows brought a wide range of backgrounds and interests to the Center:



Bethany Aragon, a J.D./M.A. student and retired U.S. Army Colonel, brought extensive experience in strategic engagement and interagency collaboration to her work in environmental and natural resource law, including delivering a presentation on the Clean Water Act at the 2026 Wind River Water Forum.



Molly Bretthauer, a J.D./M.A. student, pursued interests in environmental and energy law, including critical mineral processing and refinement.



Colton Goldfarb supported Center research on transboundary water law and policy throughout the year and also assisted with organizing the 2026 Wind River Water Forum.



Olivia Thomas, a J.D./M.A. student, pursued interests in water, public lands, wildlife, and natural resource law, helping to edit the American Bar Association's Summer 2026 edition focused on Yellowstone.



Zach Thomas, a J.D. student, leveraged his background as a hydrologist to engage in research on a forthcoming book about Colorado River management.



Kaleb Palmer, a J.D. student, brought an interdisciplinary background in energy systems science, environment and natural resources, and data analysis to his interests in energy law and regulation.

Their contributions ranged from legal research and writing to helping organize conferences and public forums. Several fellows also contributed directly to faculty publications, allowing students to see their research become part of broader scholarly and policy conversations.

Visiting Scholars

The Gina Guy Center was pleased to welcome two leading natural resource law scholars to UW during the 2025–2026 academic year: Professor Robert Keiter, Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, and Professor Alex Erwin, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

During their visits, Professors Keiter and Erwin each presented their current research to the UW community and spent time engaging with College of Law students and faculty. These visits created opportunities for

students to hear about emerging natural resource law scholarship directly from leading researchers while also providing time for smaller conversations and intellectual exchange among students, faculty, and our visiting scholars.

Hosting scholars from other institutions is an important part of the Center's role in fostering a vibrant natural resource law community at UW and connecting our students and faculty with colleagues working on these issues across the country.

Taking the Classroom to the Colorado River

In May 2026, Professors Temple Stoellinger and Jason Robison co-taught a field course in the Grand Canyon focused on the law and policy of the Colorado River (i.e., the "Law of the River").

The timing could hardly have been more relevant. With new rules recently announced (and currently being litigated) for the Colorado River's operation after 2026, students had the opportunity to study the Law of the River at a pivotal moment for the basin. Using the Grand Canyon and Colorado River as a living classroom, the course explored the complex web of laws subsumed within the Law of the River, as well as the interests of Tribal Nations, states, federal agencies, water users, and communities throughout the basin.



Earlier in the year, in September 2025, Professor Robison led students in his Colorado River Seminar on a field trip to the river's headwaters. The group visited Grand Lake and the Colorado-Big Thompson Project–a transbasin diversion project built by the Bureau of Reclamation–and explored the upper reaches of the river system near La Poudre Pass in Rocky Mountain National Park.

For Wyoming students, understanding the Colorado River is particularly important. As a headwaters state with territory located in the Upper Colorado River Basin, Wyoming has a direct stake in decisions about the river's future management. Training the next generation of Wyoming lawyers and natural resource professionals to understand the Law of the River—and the competing demands and relationships that shape its management—is critical to ensuring Wyoming is well prepared to participate in these consequential conversations.

Convening Important Conversations

The Gina Guy Center also serves as a convener, bringing together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, students, communities, and other partners to discuss challenging natural resource issues.

LANDSCAPE DISCUSSION ON ENERGY LAW AND POLICY IN THE ROCKIES

In October 2025, the Center hosted the latest Landscape Discussion on Energy Law and Policy in the Rockies.

Presented in partnership with the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources and Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, the biennial conference brings together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and industry representatives to examine legal and policy issues shaping energy development in Wyoming and across the Rocky Mountain West.

The next Landscape Discussion is planned for October 2027.

WIND RIVER WATER FORUM



In April 2026, the Center continued convening the Wind River Water Forum on the Wind River Indian Reservation, collaborating with the Wind River Water Board, as well as the Getches-Wilkinson Center at the University of Colorado Law School.

The Forum focuses on water law and policy issues facing Tribal Nations and provides a venue for dialogue, relationship building, and the exchange of ideas. Center students contribute to the research, planning, and coordination that make the Forum possible.

Gina Guy Center Student Research Fellow Bethany Aragon delivered a presentation about the Clean Water Act at the Forum's "Beyond Wind River" panel, speaking alongside UW Law alum Alyson White Eagle, who now serves as Counsel for the Wind River Water Board, and Professor Jason Robison.

COLORADO RIVER PARTNERSHIPS

The Center continued its engagement in conversations about the future of the Colorado River through several longstanding partnerships.

The Gina Guy Center co-sponsors the Water & Tribes Initiative luncheon held during the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference in Las Vegas. The luncheon brings together approximately 200 participants for discussion of Tribal water interests and Colorado River management.

The Center also co-sponsors the annual Colorado River Conference hosted by the Water & Tribes Initiative and the Getches-Wilkinson Center at the University of Colorado Law School and assists with organizing and facilitating the event.

Advancing Natural Resource Scholarship

Research is another important component of the Gina Guy Center's work. During 2025–2026, Professors Stoellinger and Robison continued active research programs addressing wildlife, public lands, conservation, water, Tribal sovereignty, and natural resource governance. Student fellows frequently work alongside the co-directors on these projects, and several have become co-authors on resulting publications.

TEMPLE STOELLINGER



Professor Stoellinger's scholarship focuses on wildlife conservation, public lands, state trust lands, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and natural resource governance.

Recent work includes:

- *Predators and Precedents: Grizzly Bears, Joe Pickett and the Law of Delisting*, 26 Wyoming Law Review 234 (2026) (with Kelly Dunning, Arthur Middleton, and Gina Guy Center Student Research Fellow Bethany Aragon).
- *State Trust Land Revenue Diversification Through Conservation*, 2023(1) Utah Law Review 197 (with Bryan Leonard, Travis Brammer, Shawn Regan, and Jonathan Wood). The article received a 2026 Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review Honorable Mention.
- *Public Playgrounds or Private Trusts? The Future of Recreation on State Trust Lands*, 55 Environmental Law Reporter 10294 (2025) (with Sam Johnson, Bryan Leonard, and Eric Atkinson).
- *Conservation Easements and Bison Restoration on the Wind River Indian Reservation: Exploring Opportunities, Challenges, and Alternatives*, 15 Arizona Journal of Environmental Law & Policy 167 (2025) (with Alyson White Eagle, Kate Gamble, 2024/25 Gina Guy Center Student Director Jacy Rudloff, and Tarissa Spoonhunter).

Stoellinger also served as lead editor of a special Yellowstone edition of the American Bar Association's *Natural Resources & Environment* magazine examining contemporary issues in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Her work for the edition included research on visitor management in Grand Teton and other national parks with Gina Guy Center Student Research Fellow Olivia Thomas.

JASON ROBISON



Professor Robison's scholarship focuses on western water law, Tribal sovereignty, the Colorado River, and the institutions responsible for governing shared natural resources.

Recent work includes:

- *Relational River: Arizona v. Navajo Nation & the Colorado*, 72 UCLA Law Review 116 (2025), examining the Supreme Court's decision in Arizona v. Navajo Nation and its implications for Tribal Nations, the federal government, and governance of the Colorado River.
- *Equity Along the Yellowstone*, 96 University of Colorado Law Review 601 (2025), exploring water governance, Tribal Nations, and questions of equity in the Yellowstone River Basin.
- *Toward a Basinwide Entity: Moving from Vision to Action*, in Colorado River Research Group, Colorado River Insights, 2025, Dancing with Dead Pool (2025) (with Matthew McKinney, John Berggren, and Doug Kenney), examining concerns over inclusivity, transparency, and framing in Colorado River governance and calling for dialogue about a potential basinwide entity.
- Water & Tribes Initiative, *Tribal Sovereignty in the Colorado River Basin & Beyond*, Policy Brief #6 (2026) (lead author), examining the history, nature, and modern relevance of Tribal sovereignty within the Colorado River Basin and more broadly.
- *Tripartite Water Cosovereignty*, 135 Yale Law Journal 2886 (2026), examining interstate water compacts and the need to move beyond binary conceptions of state and federal sovereignty to account for Native Nations as sovereigns in water governance.

Robison is also developing a book examining the future of Colorado River management and new approaches to governing the basin. His other ongoing work includes research on transboundary water law and policy at the international level–including the role of the International Court of Justice in dispute resolution–and a project tentatively titled, *Re-Indigenizing Grand Teton*, examining the longstanding presence of Native Peoples in Grand Teton National Park and possibilities for future co-management.

Celebrating Faculty Milestones

The Center also celebrated a couple important faculty milestones during the 2025–2026 academic year.

First, in recognition of his research efforts since joining the law faculty in 2013, Co-Director Jason Robison was appointed the Jerry H. Housel/Carl F. Arnold Distinguished Professor of Law. Robison received the law school's Faculty Research Award in 2025, and he also serves as an adjunct professor at the Haub School.

Second, Co-Director Temple Stoellinger was promoted to full professor at the University of Wyoming. Stoellinger holds a joint appointment in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and College of Law and serves as a Wyoming Excellence Chair and Associate Dean of the Haub School. Her promotion recognizes her contributions to scholarship, teaching, service, and engagement in environmental and natural resource law and policy. Stoellinger also received a 2026 University of Wyoming Presidential Scholarly Achievement Award recognizing her scholarship and research.

Looking Ahead to 2026–2027

The coming academic year brings another ambitious slate of Center activities.

Professor Dave Owen of UC Law San Francisco will serve as the 2026–2027 Frank J. Trelease Speaker. Co-sponsored by the Gina Guy Center and the John Burman Student Bar Association at the College of Law, the Trelease Dinner will be held October 16, 2026, at the Ivinson Mansion in Laramie.

In April 2027, the Center will again partner with the Wind River Water Board, Getches-Wilkinson Center, and Central Wyoming College to convene the third annual Wind River Water Forum in Riverton.

Planning is also beginning for the next Landscape Discussion on Energy Law and Policy in the Rockies in October 2027 and, looking farther ahead, a major conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of Grand Teton National Park in 2029. The Grand Teton gathering will build upon the Center's successful Yellowstone 150 conference held in 2022.

Above all, we look forward to another year of working with our Student Director and Research Fellows and finding new ways to involve UW law students in the natural resource issues shaping Wyoming and the West.

Help Us Continue This Work

The Gina Guy Center's work is made possible through philanthropic support. Donations help fund our Student Director and Student Research Fellows, faculty-student research, field-based education, conferences, forums, and other public programming.

If you share our commitment to preparing the next generation of natural resource lawyers and advancing thoughtful research and dialogue about the lands, waters, wildlife, and natural resources of Wyoming and the West, we would be grateful for your support.

To learn more about supporting the Gina Guy Center for Land and Water or to make a gift, please contact Andrea Harrington at the University of Wyoming Foundation.

We also hope you will consider supporting the Gina Guy Center during the University of Wyoming's 2026 Giving Day, from noon on October 21 through noon on October 22. Every gift helps sustain the students, research, and programs that make the Gina Guy Center possible.

Thank you to our students, faculty, alumni, partners, donors, and friends for your continued support. We look forward to another year of advancing natural resource law and policy at the University of Wyoming and throughout the West.



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