Editor's Note

Dave Newman

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Welcome to the new Sustainable Development Law & Policy (SDLP), formerly known as International and Comparative Environmental Law (ICEL). Increasingly, the world's leading policymakers, scientists, activists, and academics are working to address environmental problems through the lens of sustainable development. After many years of analyzing and fighting environmental problems in a near vacuum, it is now widely accepted that any successful effort to mitigate growing environmental degradation must focus on reconciling the tension between environmental health and economic sustainability. Implementing more sustainable economic models will ensure continuous environmental, social and economic health for generations to come.

This summer, the world will gather in Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to help move down the path of creating a healthier, more sustainable world. As environmental imbalance increasingly causes economic, social and political dislocation throughout the world, it is imperative that we begin addressing root causes instead of mere symptoms.

Our mission is to provide timely information and analysis of important issues relating to sustainable development law and policy. We hope to serve as a valuable resource for practitioners, policymakers, and others involved in or interested in sustainable development throughout the world. We appreciate your subscription and welcome your feedback.

Dave Newman
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CIEL

WCL Professor, Student & Alum go to WSSD

By Roxanne Sher-Skelton

Durwood Zaelke, adjunct professor at WCL, president of the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and Director of the Secretariat of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), is involved in two side events at the United Nations' World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) this August in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ana Maria Kleymeyer, '02, and Roxanne Sher-Skelton, 3L, are working with him to carry out these events.

The first event is the Global Judicial Symposium. It will host Chief Justices and other senior Judges from fifty countries around the world. The participants will examine instruments that give legal validity to emerging international principles of environmental law, including those in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and identify materials and information they will need in their daily practice to assist them in making informed decisions on issues of environmental law.

Professor Zaelke will also co-host the official announcement of INDUSTRY GENIUS: INVENTIONS AND PEOPLE PROTECTING THE CLIMATE AND ITS FRAGILE OZONE LAYER, written by himself and Steven O. Anderson of the U.S. EPA. The book, to be published this fall, profiles ten companies that have invented new technologies that benefit the environment. Each chapter blends the challenges and triumph of the engineers and managers behind the development of the invention with precise explanations of the new technology. Companies include Seiko-Epson, inventor of a kinetic powered watch; Honda, which recently released one of the first commercially available hybrid cars; and Energy Star, the government labeling program that inspired appliance companies across the country to reduce the energy consumption of their products.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development will bring together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State and Government officials, national delegates and leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other major groups to focus the world's attention toward meeting the difficult challenges of sustainable development. Participants will consider how to improve people's lives and conserve our natural resources in the face of rising demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security.

FOR MORE INFO ON THE WSSD:
HTTP://WWW.IISD.CA/WSSD/PORTAL.HTML