

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Brion Blackwelder, Esq.** is an Associate Professor of Law at Nova Southeastern University, where he teaches Ocean and Coastal Law to law and oceanography students. He has a B.S. in Geology from Duke University and a J.D. from Nova Southeastern University (1984). He serves on the Broward County Water Advisory Board and for several years was a member of the County's Climate Change Task Force. He is formerly an environmental lobbyist and director of various environmental campaigns and organizations. He also directs the NSU Children and Families Law Clinic year-round.



**Erin L. Deady, P.A.**, is a full service legal and consulting firm. The Firm is Small Business Administration federally-certified as a Woman-Owned firm. Firm President, Erin Deady, is a licensed attorney in Florida, a certified land planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners ("AICP") and a LEED AP. Ms. Deady specializes in large-scale environmental restoration initiatives involving areas such as the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River and southern Louisiana wetlands. She also specializes in land use, water resource, sustainability and climate change matters and has a strong track record in securing grants for governmental and agricultural clients. Erin is a frequent lecturer and author on climate change, energy, environmental restoration and public finance issues statewide and nationally.



**Richard Grosso, Esq.** is an attorney and law professor at the Shepard Broad College of Law at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he teaches courses in land use, environmental, energy law, and constitutional law. Mr. Grosso is the former Executive Director and General Counsel of the Everglades Law Center, Inc., a public interest environmental law firm, and a former Legal Director for 1000 Friends of Florida, and attorney for Florida's land use and environmental agencies. He has 32 years of experience as a practicing lawyer and policy advocate representing clients in court and before administrative agencies, and has successfully litigated several of the most important and precedential land use, environment and property rights legal cases protecting Florida's environment. He has authored numerous publications, and speaks and lectures extensively before governmental, legal, civic, business and other organizations. Mr. Grosso has been widely recognized for his work on behalf of Florida's environment. Recently, his research, writing, lecturing and legal work has focused on regulatory responses to sea level rise and climate change.



Heidi Mehaffey's primary practice areas are Animal Law, Emotional Support Animal Accommodations, Fair Housing Act, Environmental Law and Land Use practice. Ms. Mehaffey graduated from Nova Southeastern Shepard Broad Law Center in May of 2015 after which she was accepted into the Order of the Barristers. She was recently published in the Animal Law Committee of the Florida Bar and the Mid-Atlantic Journal on Law and Public Policy for her articles on the pig farming industry and the need for humane standards of operation.

In the summer of 2013, Mrs. Mehaffey was accepted into the Student Honors Law Clerk Program in the Environmental Protection Agency's office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in Washington, D.C. She worked alongside government attorneys and engineers in analyzing state memorandum of agreements in which states were authorized to facilitate their own permitting programs under the Clean Water Act.

As a native Floridian, Mrs. Mehaffey has a deep appreciation for the surrounding environment. Prior to attending law school, she was a volunteer at the South Florida Wildlife Center rescuing injured wildlife and then releasing them back into the wild after rehabilitation. Presently, she is a member of Dive Bar, an underwater bar association that participates in conservation efforts under the supervision of the National Coral Reef Institute and the Oceanographic Center of NSU in their coral growth and grafting program.



Nancy Metayer is a storied community organizer and former member of the Broward County Soil and Water Conservation District. With a decade of public service experience, leading on issues ranging from environmental advocacy to disaster relief, and a record for championing community resilience and building pipelines for access and equity. Nancy is a graduate of Florida A&M University, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree and a graduate of Johns Hopkins University where she received her Master of Health Science degree.

Nancy has undertaken work across multiple government agencies and nonprofit organizations - both domestically and internationally. She's brought long-term strategy expertise to programs seeking to improve environmental conditions, water, sanitation and public health across vulnerable communities. She's been a staunch advocate for those impacted by water crises' nationwide and worked extensively in response to devastating natural disasters such as 2018's Hurricane Irma and 2019's Hurricane Michael. Most recently, Nancy was a Mayoral candidate for Coral Springs in the March 2019 special election. Currently, Nancy leads a long-term strategy initiative, Florida Disaster Preparedness Plan (FDPP), which focuses on building disaster and community resilience in vulnerable neighborhoods across the state of Florida.



Ms. Moncrief received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1999 and her B.A. from Emory University in 1995. After graduating from law school, she worked as a staff attorney with the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation to provide legal assistance and support to communities affected by hazardous waste sites and advocate before the state legislature on related issues, including groundwater protection and environmental justice. Ms. Moncrief then joined the Florida office of Earthjustice, where she represented individual and non-profit organizations in litigation to protect wetlands, endangered species, and other environmental resources. She joined the Enforcement section of DEP's Office of General Counsel in August 2004, becoming Deputy General Counsel in 2007. At DEP, she represented the Department in litigation concerning a variety of environmental programs and managed a team of more than 15 attorneys handling DEP's enforcement actions throughout the state. Seeing the need for citizens to become more involved in policymaking on environmental issues in Florida, in 2011 she became the Executive Director of Environment Florida, a grassroots environmental advocacy organization working on both state and federal environmental policy. She became Field Director and then Deputy Campaign Manager of Florida's Water and Land Legacy, which lead the environmental community's campaign to pass the Water and Land Conservation Amendment that won 75% of the vote in the November 2014 election.

Ms. Moncrief is now Executive Director of Florida Conservation Voters, which emerged as the successor organization to Florida's Water and Land Legacy and aims to become the state's leading non-partisan political voice for protecting Florida's environment by electing, educating, and holding Florida's elected officials accountable for their conservation policies



**Keith Williams** has extensive experience working in complex trial litigation of real property, eminent domain, land use, bankruptcy, environmental, construction and tort matters in state circuit court and federal district court. Prior to joining the firm of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP, he held the position of Assistant County Attorney with the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and, more recently, as Senior Attorney with the South Florida Water Management District.

Keith began his career working as a Senior Assistant General Counsel at the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where he gained experience with complex trial litigation of environmental, real property and land use issues in state circuit court, federal court and Division of Administrative Hearings. His pro bono work includes the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc., where he represented indigent students and clients before the School Board of Palm Beach County.