

DETAILED AGENDA

2025 NSU Law Coastal Resilience Conference
Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law
3305 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale FL 33328
March 14, 2025

Conference Summary

The NSU Shepard Broad College of Law is presenting a CLE Program entitled ***2025 NSU Law Coastal Resilience Conference*** on Friday, March 14, 2025, live and in-person at the Shepard Broad College of Law. The program will be held on the 3rd floor of the Panza Maurer Law Library and will run 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Description:

Florida's low-lying topography makes it particularly vulnerable to increased flooding from hurricanes, rain events, storm surge, and sea level rise. The NSU Shepard Broad College of Law is offering a CLE program focused on improving resilience to increasing threats posed to coastal communities. Conference attendees will learn about the effects of climate change and sea level rise on Florida's communities and businesses and will gain insight into how state, regional, and local leaders are collaborating with diverse stakeholders to accelerate solutions that help communities, ecosystems, and economies prepare and respond to changing coastal conditions.

The ***2025 NSU Coastal Resilience Conference*** brings together a diverse group of experts from state and federal government agencies, industry, and academia to provide up-to-date resilience initiatives and proposals for change. Each of the topics discussed will involve practical and regulatory considerations integral to improving coastal resilience. Leading scientists will provide detailed discussion of the current science of climate change and sea level rise, and their effects on Florida's communities, environments, and businesses. Speakers from government agencies will discuss Florida's Resilient Florida Program, and its application to local communities in south Florida. Environmental attorneys will examine the progress of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and discuss how ecosystem restoration is a critical response to climate risk. Insurance experts will address how the impacts of changing coastal conditions pose significant upward challenges to Florida's insurance markets and the provision of disaster relief. Experts in local government law will discuss legal and policy challenges and opportunities associated with creating more resilient communities, including constitutional taking issues raised by government efforts to protect coastal communities from harm. Experts will also address adaptation and retreat efforts available to protect nature, infrastructure and vulnerable coastal communities. This will include a discussion of the funded relocation of the citizens of the Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana, the country's first effort to assist in climate change-driven relocation.

Consistent with CLE Accreditation Standard 5.01(a)(1), this program is designed to have significant intellectual or practical content aimed at increasing or maintaining the attorney's professional competence and skills as a lawyer through the focus on legal strategies to increase knowledge of environmental and insurance law, the regulatory landscape of coastal resilience, and legal considerations in climate adaptation and disaster recovery. Participants will gain insights into Florida's Resilient Florida Program, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), and legal strategies for addressing constitutional issues, insurance challenges, and government-driven relocation efforts. The program will also examine legal frameworks for adaptation and retreat strategies aimed at protecting infrastructure, ecosystems, and vulnerable coastal communities. The level of activity is Intermediate [CLE Accreditation Standard 5.01(c)] because it assumes that all participants have a basic understanding of the issues involved, while other participants may have more than just a basic understanding.

Each of the topics involves practical and regulatory considerations critical to improving coastal resilience,

including the role of law in shaping policies, funding mechanisms, and technological innovations that support adaptation efforts.

Programs – Detailed Time Schedule Coastal Resilience Conference

Friday, March 14, 2025		
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast and Registration	
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome	Interim Law Dean Dr. Ronald J. Chenail , Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law
9:15 - 9:45 a.m.	Opening Address - The Science of Sea Level Rise: Our Coming Inundation	Introduction – Brooke Olefson President, NSU ELULS Speaker Dr. Harold Wanless Professor Department of Geography and Sustainable Development College of Arts and Sciences University of Miami Description: This presentation will examine the current science related to sea level rise and explain why accelerating rates of sea level rise is becoming increasingly dire and urgently needs to be the primary focus of policymakers and planners. The discussion will explore current and projected impacts of sea level rise on Florida coastal communities and environments and steps that can be taken to address the coming inundation.
9:50 - 10:50 a.m.	Panel I – Local Government Legal and Policy Challenges and Opportunities with Becoming More Resilient Communities	Introductions – Max Baroody Vice President, NSU ELULS Speakers Erin L. Deady, Esq. Erin L. Deady, P.A. Thomas Ruppert, Esq. Assistant Provost for Coastal Resilience and Director Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative at William & Mary

		<p>Description: Billions of dollars of real estate in Florida are at risk from sea level rise and increasing coastal flooding. As the government acts to address these increasing risks, legal challenges will follow. This panel will address the challenges local governments face in balancing individual property rights with the need to protect communities from harm, and will explore opportunities for communities to become more resilient.</p>
<p>11:00 a.m. - Noon</p>	<p>Panel II – Coastal Inundation, Insurance, and Disaster Relief</p>	<p>Introductions – Sophie Lopez Communications Director, NSU ELULS</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Lisa Miller Former Florida Deputy Insurance Commissioner</p> <p>Douglas McIntosh, Esq. Douglas M. McIntosh, LLC.</p> <p>Lee Burke, CRM, CIC President and Founder, Burke Bogart & Brownell, Inc.</p> <p>Description: Florida’s low-lying coastal topography makes its shoreline increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of rising sea levels and intensifying coastal storms. Increased coastal flooding and damage continues to place upward pressure on insurance markets to address risks. This panel will address how these changes impact insurance coverage and disaster relief in Florida.</p>
<p>12:00 – 12:20 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
<p>12:20 - 1:10 p.m.</p>	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Rising Seas: Unprecedented, Unstoppable, and Unpredictable</p>	<p>Introduction – Max Barody Vice President, NSU ELULS</p> <p>John Englander Director Rising Seas Institute NSU Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center</p> <p>Description: Rising seas will fundamentally alter communities, industries, legal institutions, and natural environments around the world. This presentation will examine the unprecedented challenges sea level rise presents to society and explore strategies for intelligent adaptation. By examining steps taken by other</p>

		coastal communities to respond to the sea level rise, this presentation will provide key insights for policy makers and planners in Florida to plan effectively for a new coastline.
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	Panel III – Resilient Florida Program and Local Government Resilience Efforts	<p>Introductions – Brandon Sainvil Secretary, NSU ELULS</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Eddy Bouza Program Management Director Resilient Florida Program Florida Department of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Jurado Chief Resilience Officer Broward County, Florida</p> <p>Description: State and local governments are responding to the threats posed by rising seas and increasing coastal inundation. This panel will address how coastal and inland communities in Florida are planning for the impacts of flooding and sea level rise. The discussion will explore the structure and function of the Resilient Florida Program and explore local government resilience efforts in south Florida.</p>
2:20 – 3:20 p.m.	Panel IV – Sea Level Rise and Restoration: Ecosystem Restoration as a Response to Climate Risk	<p>Introductions – Melissa Hyman Treasurer, NSU ELULS</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Richard Grosso, Esq. Richard Grosso, P.A.</p> <p>Shannon A. Estenoz Former Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks U.S. Department of Interior</p> <p>Keith Rizzardi, Esq. Professor of Law Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law</p> <p>Description: This panel will examine opportunities to restore imperiled natural systems to address risks posed by sea level rise and a changing climate. With a focus on Florida Everglades, the panelists will discuss how policymakers and planners can protect and conserve public lands, wildlife, and precious natural resources.</p>

<p>3:25 - 4:25 p.m.</p>	<p>Panel V – Adaptation and Retreat: Protecting Nature, Infrastructure and Vulnerable Communities</p>	<p>Introductions – Melissa Hyman Treasurer, NSU ELULS</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Gina Campo, Esq. Executive Director Louisiana Office of Community Development: Disaster Recovery Isle De Jean Charles Resettlement</p> <p>Eric V. Hull, Esq. Professor of Law Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law</p> <p>Description: Rising seas will permanently cover existing coastal land forcing communities, critical infrastructure, and ecosystems to move to higher ground. This panel will focus on the multiple challenges community leaders face in managed retreat. The panel will examine the funded relocation of the citizens of the Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana, touted as the country’s first effort to assist in climate change-driven relocation, and address laws available to help protect valuable coastal ecosystems and the species.</p>
<p>4:30 - 4:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Eric V. Hull Professor of Law Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law</p>