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“Urban Parks Equity” Theme of Environmental Law Symposium at Golden Gate University School of Law on November 14

On Friday, November 14, 2008, Golden Gate University School of Law will host “Urban Parks Equity: Income, Race & Open Space,” a daylong symposium at which environmental lawyers, parks agency officials, and community and environmental advocates will discuss and present the latest research and case studies on access to parklands and open space by residents of low-income communities in California and beyond. The symposium is presented by the School of Law’s City Parks Project, Environmental Law Society, and Golden Gate University Environmental Law Journal.

“As environmental justice has expanded to include environmental benefits as well as environmental burdens, open space is now a major focus,” says Visiting Assistant Professor Paul Kibel, co-director of the Law School’s Environmental Law Program and director of its City Parks Project. “Considering open space from an equity perspective presents two great opportunities—first, to improve the scenic and public health amenities available to urban low-income minority residents; and second, to help build a stronger and more diverse constituency for conservation, parks and wilderness in general.”

Presenters at the symposium will include:
• Mike Anderson (East Bay Regional Park District)
• Stephanie Landregan (UCLA)
• Marsha Murrington (Unity Council)
• Glen O’Gilvie (Earth Conservation Corps)
• Bettina Ring (Bay Area Open Space Council)
• Patrick Rump (Literacy for Environmental Justice)
• Jane Van Dyke (Columbia Slough Watershed Council)
• Tim Wirth (Trust for Public Land)

The symposium will take place at Golden Gate University School of Law, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco, 2nd floor, from 9 am to 4 pm. The cost is $35 for the general public; $70 for attorneys seeking MCLE credit; and free to students from Golden Gate University and other schools who present a valid ID. Seating is limited, and registration is encouraged. To register, contact Shayne Weston at sweston@ggu.edu or 415-369-5356.

Cosponsors of the symposium include the Environmental Law sections of the State Bar of California and of the Bar Association of San Francisco, as well as several Bay Area environmental and conservation organizations.

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