

## December 14 – Land Use – L21

### Fracking Redux

#### SPEAKER BIOS

**Erica Levine Powers** is a land use and environmental lawyer with a strong interest in transitional and alternative energy transactions, infrastructure, policy and regulation. A *cum laude* graduate of Harvard College in Modern European History and Literature, she holds J.D. and LL.M. (Taxation) degrees from Boston University School of Law. Initially counsel to the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks and then a corporate transactional lawyer at Gaston Snow & Ely Bartlett, Boston, she served as counsel to the Deputy Mayor/ Collector Treasurer of the City of Boston and as General Counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture. She is admitted in Massachusetts, Maryland and New York, and resides in Albany, New York.

She has been a visiting professor of planning (sabbatical coverage) at Cornell University, Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, and Massey University in New Zealand. As a lecturer at the University at Albany (SUNY), from 2009 through 2013 she taught graduate courses in law and environmental planning and developed an interdisciplinary environmental planning seminar on hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale. She participates in panels and webinars on natural gas exploration and hydraulic fracturing for the ABA, the APA, IMLA, and the Institute for Energy Law (CAILAW). She is the lead editor and a contributing author of *Beyond the Fracking Wars* (ABA, 2013), acclaimed for its scope and objectivity.

In the ABA State and Local Government Law Section she has a leadership position as Editor of the quarterly *State & Local Law News*; serves on the Publications Oversight Board and the Land Use Committee, and chairs the Environment & Energy Resources Committee; and pursues her interest in disaster preparedness and resilience planning. She also writes on land use and transportation, and is editor of a forthcoming book on preemption and fracking.

**Sorell E. Negro** is a lawyer with Robinson & Cole LLP in Hartford, CT and focuses on land use and environmental litigation. Ms. Negro's litigation experience spans state and federal court and includes land use appeals, violations of wetlands permitting requirements and remediation, complex real property disputes, public health violations, and liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. She earned her J.D. from Cornell Law School and B.S. from Georgetown University. She has spoken and presented on a variety of environmental, land use, real estate, and economic issues related to the development of natural gas. She wrote *Fracking Wars: Federal, State, and Local Conflicts over the Regulation of Natural Gas Activities*, for the Zoning and Planning Law Report (2012), and a chapter entitled, "‘Man Camps,’ Boom Towns, and the Boom and Bust Cycle: Learning from Rifle, Colorado, and Williams County, North Dakota" for the 2013 ABA book, *Beyond the Fracking Wars: A*

*Guide for Lawyers, Public Officials, Planners and Citizens.* Ms. Negro was one of six young lawyers selected nationally to be a fellow of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law for 2012-2014. She received the 2013 Jefferson B. Fordham Up & Comers Award from the ABA Section of State and Local Government Law, and she is a Rising Star on Connecticut's [Super Lawyers®](#) list for land use and zoning. Prior to joining Robinson & Cole, Ms. Negro clerked for the Hon. Fernando M. Olguin of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

**Dwight H. Merriam** founded Robinson & Cole's Land Use Group in 1978. He represents land owners, developers, governments and individuals in land use matters. Dwight is a Fellow and Past President and of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a former Director of the American Planning Association, a former chair of APA's Planning and Law Division, and a former chair of the American Bar Association's national Section of State and Local Government Law. He teaches land use law at the University of Connecticut School of Law and at the Vermont Law School and has published over 200 articles and nine books and including *Inclusionary Zoning Moves Downtown*, *The Takings Issue*, *The Complete Guide to Zoning*, and *Eminent Domain Use and Abuse: Kelo in Context*.

**Daniel R. Mandelker** is a leading scholar and teacher in land use law, environmental law, and state and local government law. He was the principal consultant and contributor to the American Planning Association's model planning and zoning legislation project. He was also the principal consultant to a joint American Bar Association committee that prepared a model law for land use procedures that was adopted by the ABA House of Delegates. He recently published a book on designed planned communities and a handbook on free speech law for on premise signs. Additionally, he received the ABA's State and Local Government Section Daniel J. Curtin Lifetime Achievement Award.