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Author of “The Green Amendment” to Deliver Keynote Speech

Gainesville, FL – Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, will deliver the banquet keynote speech at the 25th Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, hosted by the University of Florida School of Law, on February 8 at 8 p.m. The topic of the speech will be *The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment*. Van Rossum’s book of the same name was released in 2017.

The Green Amendment outlines the need for constitutional protection of our environmental rights. In 2013, van Rossum and her team won a watershed legal victory that not only protected Pennsylvania communities from ruthless frackers, but breathed legal life into the constitutional right of people in the state to a clean and healthy environment.

Following this victory, van Rossum inaugurated the Green Amendment movement, dedicated to empowering every American community to mobilize for constitutional change. In *The Green Amendment*, van Rossum lays out an inspiring new agenda for environmental advocacy, one that will empower people.

“There has been increasing momentum in Florida behind the idea of a constitutional environmental rights amendment, or a Green Amendment. People are starting to realize that while they have an inalienable right to clean air, pure water, and a healthy environment, they don't actually have a recognized legal right. And so Floridians are starting to demand those rights be recognized and protected in the state constitution, as they should be,” said **Maya van Rossum, author of *The Green Amendment*** and founder of the Green Amendment movement. “I hope to show Florida the path forward for securing a meaningful Green Amendment and the environmental protection they deserve.”

This strategy allows people to recognize that they have a right to pure water, clean air, and a healthy environment, and one that allows people to claim and defend that right in the courts if necessary. *The Green Amendment* includes a powerful foreword authored by Mark Ruffalo, which supports the visionary constitutional path advocated for in the book. *The Green Amendment* was selected as a 2018 Living Now Evergreen Awards GOLD Winner in the Nature Conservation category.

The talk will be held on February 8 at 8 p.m. at 2809 West University Avenue, Gainesville, FL.

To learn more about the book, and Maya van Rossum, visit mayavanrossum.green.

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