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The Delaware Riverkeeper Presents at APIEL 8 Conference

Knoxville, TN – Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), presented a workshop titled “The Green Amendment: Claiming Your Right to a Healthy Environment for the Generations” at the APIEL 8 conference in Knoxville, TN.

Van Rossum, author of the book “The Green Amendment: Securing our Right to a Healthy Environment,” discussed her role in the landmark “Robinson Township vs Commonwealth of Pennsylvania” case, argued in Pennsylvania Supreme Court, that strengthened Pennsylvania’s Environmental Rights Amendment guaranteeing the people of Pennsylvania the right to pure water, clean air, and a healthy environment.

In the “Robinson Township” case, the court overturned portions of Act 13, Pennsylvania’s oil and gas law. Van Rossum was a lead in this case and argued that Act 13 violated the Environmental Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article I, Section 27, which states: “The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

DRN and van Rossum seek to secure Pennsylvania’s level of constitutional protection of environmental rights in states across the nation. At her workshop, she presented on how Constitutional-level protection is an important piece in defending the environment from threats such as pollution, shale drilling, and overdevelopment. She also discussed the economic factors of environmental constitutionalism, how past legislation has failed communities, and how to take action.

“The Green Amendment” is currently available for pre-order on Amazon and will be released November 14.

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.

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