

## **Linda Sheehan**

Attorney Linda Sheehan brings 20 years of environmental law and policy experience to her work as Executive Director of Earth Law Center, where she utilizes legal research, outreach, education, and applied advocacy to develop new laws and governance models that acknowledge the natural world's inherent rights to exist, thrive and evolve. Prior to Earth Law Center, Ms. Sheehan took action on behalf of California's waterways and ocean habitats as Executive Director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance, and as Director of the Pacific Region Office of Ocean Conservancy. Among other efforts, Ms. Sheehan has successfully advanced federal and state legislation, policy and litigation initiatives to: increase enforcement of clean water laws, provide state water quality data to the public, boost waterway health monitoring, conserve marine habitats, improve oil spill prevention and response, control marine invasive species, expand use of sustainable water supply strategies, and create new funding sources to ensure healthy waters. For her efforts in "fight[ing] pollution of the Pacific and the streams and rivers that flow into it," Ms. Sheehan was recognized as a "California Coastal Hero" by Sunset Magazine and the California Coastal Commission.

Ms. Sheehan is also a Summer Session Faculty member at Vermont Law School, where she teaches a course she developed on rights of nature entitled "Earth Law," and a Visiting Research Fellow with the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Ms. Sheehan is a contributing author to *Exploring Wild Law: The Philosophy of Earth Jurisprudence*, published by Wakefield Press. She is also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), focusing her efforts on its Commission on Environmental Law.

Ms. Sheehan holds a B.S. in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she minored in economics; an M.P.P. from the University of California, Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, where she was a Berkeley Policy Fellow; and a J.D. from the University of California's Boalt Hall School of Law.

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