New York State Bar Association
Environmental Law Section
General Membership Meeting
Broadway Ballroom South, 6th Floor
Marriott Marquis, New York City
Friday, January 27, 2006

Call to Order: Miriam Villani, Chair of the Environmental Law Section, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m, and welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting Luncheon.

1. **Introductions**. Miriam Villani introduced the individuals at the head table, including the Section officers, Program co-chairs Kevin Healy and Antonio Bryson, keynote speaker Andrew C. Revkin, Environmental Reporter for the *New York Times*, NYSDEC Commissioner Denise Sheehan, and David Shaw, Director of Air Resources for NYSDEC, and Peter Lehner, Chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau in the New York Attorney General's Office.

2. **Thanks.** Miriam Villani thanked the co-chairs of the morning program on global climate change, Kevin Healy and Antonio Bryson, the program coordinator, Lou Alexander, and the co-chairs of the "pre-morning program" on the proposed Part 375 regulations, Dave Freeman and Larry Schnapf, on their outstanding presentations. Ms. Villani also thanked the various presenters from the morning program's two panels. She extended the Section's thanks to the law firms who had contributed to the Section's 25th Anniversary celebration cocktail party the prior evening, and the sponsors of the morning CLE program breakfast and break. Ms. Villani also thanked Lisa Bataille, Linda Castilla, and Kathy Plog, administrative staff of the New York State Bar Association, for their invaluable help, support and hard work.

3. **Section 25th Anniversary.** Miriam Villani announced that the Section was celebrating its 25th Anniversary. She stated that the Section had received a letter from Governor Pataki in celebration of the Section's 25th Anniversary, and thanked Glen Bruening, Deputy Secretary to the Governor, for his help in bringing the anniversary to the Governor's attention. DEC Commissioner Sheehan then read the Governor's letter. Ms. Villani thanked Commissioner Sheehan, and then read a second letter of congratulations from New York City Mayor Bloomberg.

4. **Past Chair Award:** Miriam Villani presented a gift (a Tiffany clock) to her immediate predecessor as Section Chair, Ginny Robbins, Ms. Villani noted Ms. Robbins' considerable service and dedication to the Environmental Law Section, and thanked her for all she had done for the Section. She noted Ms. Robbins' accomplishments as Section Chair, and her ability to successfully juggle the responsibilities of running the Section, her firm responsibilities, and sending her daughter off to college, as well as her continued support for the Section.

5. **Elections.** Michael Lesser presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Lesser noted that the members of this year's Nominating Committee included himself (Chair), Alan

J. Knauf, Shannon Martin LaFrance, and Gail S. Port.

Barry Kogut was nominated to become Secretary effective June 1, 2006. The following officers were nominated to advance one step, effective June 1, 2006: Louis A. Alexander, Joan Leary Matthews and Alan Knauf to the offices of First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair and Treasurer, respectively.

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Environmental Law Section (Article III, Section 1), Walter E. Mugdan shall become Chair of the Environmental Law Section on June 1, 2006.

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Mr. Lesser called for a vote on the nomination of officers. Gail Port moved the adoption of the nominations, the motion was seconded by Shannon LaFrance, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lesser also reported that the following individuals were nominated as at-large members of the Section's Executive Committee effective June 1, 2006:

Vincent Altieri, one-year term
Charlotte Biblow, one-year term
Paul M. Bray, one-year term
Lisa M. Bromberg, one year term
Glen T. Bruening, one-year term
Judy Drabicki, one-year term
James Ferreira, one-year term
Paul Gallay, one-year term
Andrew Gershon, one-year term (in completion of a 3-year term of B. Kogut)
Peter H. Lehner, one-year term
Laurie Silberfeld, one-year term
Abby Snyder, one-year term
E. Gail Suchman, one-year term

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Mr. Lesser called for a vote on the nominations of at-large members. Shannon LaFrance moved the adoption of the nominations, the motion was seconded by Phil Dixon, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Section Awards.

Miriam Villani presented Section's Annual award to David Shaw, Director of Air Resources for NYSDEC. She stated that the award was in in recognition of his more than twenty-five years of service and dedication to New York State in protecting the State's air quality, and, in particular, his work and leadership at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with respect to the regulation of mobile and stationary sources, implementation of statewide and regional programs to abate acid rain, and development of State

implementation plans to achieve compliance with federal air quality standards.

On behalf of the Section council, Joel Sachs presented the Section Council Awards for service to the Section to Peter Casper (not in attendance due to wife's due date), Eileen Millett and Jean McCarroll.

7. **Minority Law Student Fellowship Program.** Jean McCarroll and Luis Martinez, co-chairs of the Environmental Justice Committee, presented this year's recipients of the Section's minority law student fellowships to four distinguished candidates: Denise Leong, Pace University Law School; Winston Martindale, University of Maryland School of Law; Manuel Ronquillo, Pace University Law School; Christina Miranda, Pace University Law School.

8. **Environmental Law Essay Contest.** Miriam Villani announced that the Section held its 18th Annual Environmental Law Essay Contest in 2005, and that there were 16 entries, with an excellent competition that resulted in ties for 1st and 2nd place. She then announced the following winners:

   Michael Donohue from Albany Law School tied for 1st place with his essay titled: "Putting Wind Power on the Fast Track for Development."

   Thomas Tuori from Buffalo School of Law also tied for 1st place with his essay titled: "Enforcement of SEQRA Mitigation Measures: Discussion and Case Studies."

   Jordan M. O'Brien from St. John's School of Law tied for 2nd with his essay titled: "The Specter of Westway: Environmental and Financial Concerns with the Proposed Hudson Yards Redevelopment and Rezoning Project and New York Sports and Convention Center."

   Katherine Renshaw from NYU also tied for 2nd place with her essay titled: "Crying Wolf: Does Information and Regulation Help Or Hinder Environmentalism?"

   Miriam Villani also thanked our judges, Jim Periconi, Bill Fahey, Phil Dixon, Jean McCarroll, Vernon Rail and Charlotte Biblow, and Lisa Bataille and Kathy Plog at the Bar Association for their help administering the contest.

9. **Keynote Speaker.** Miriam Villani introduced Andrew Revkin. She explained that Mr. Revkin is one of America's most honored science writers, and that since 1995, he has been a reporter for *The New York Times*. Mr. Revkin then gave an excellent presentation on global warming.

10. **Announcement.** Miriam Villani announced that Committee Meetings would follow, and then the Executive Committee would then meet at 3:00 PM. She said that these meetings were open to all Section members.

11. **Adjournment.** Chair Miriam Villani adjourned the General Membership Meeting of the Environmental Law Section at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan J. Knauf

Alan J. Knauf
Secretary