



**Peter F. Kilmartin**  
**Attorney General**

## **RI Conservation Easement Amendments Workshop**

### **Speaker Bios**

#### ***Rupert Friday, Director, RI Land Trust Council***

Rupert Friday is Executive Director of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, the statewide coalition of land trusts. In this position since May 2003, he facilitates networking and collaboration among land trusts; promotes state legislation and policies that support land conservation and safeguard protected lands; and organizes training for land conservation leaders to enhance their abilities to protect and steward RI's special places. He led campaigns for state open space bonds in 2004, 2008 and 2012. Rupert is a founding organizer of the annual Land & Water Conservation Summit – Rhode Island's premier conservation conference. Before moving to Rhode Island, Rupert worked with the Maryland Department of Planning as Coordinator for Local Government Assistance where he helped to develop and implement Maryland's "Smart Growth" initiatives. Rupert has a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Resource Management from Penn State University and a Masters in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia.

#### ***Robert Levin, Esq., Attorney***

Rob has extensive experience in nonprofit organization legal matters, land conservation transactions and related tax issues. Over the last nine years, he has consulted for the Land Trust Alliance including researching and writing the *Conservation Case Law Summaries* and has represented several Maine land trusts, including Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Loon Echo Land Trust, and York Land Trust. Rob has spoken at many conferences, including the Land Trust Alliance Rally and the Maine Land Trust Network Conference, and has written several papers on conservation issues in Tax Notes, the Land Trust Alliance's Exchange, and NYU's Environmental Law Journal. Rob graduated from Haverford College in 1996 and from New York University Law School in 2001. He served for one year as a judicial clerk to Magistrate Judge John Facciola at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

#### ***Leslie Ratley-Beach, Esq., Director Conservation Defense, Land Trust Alliance***

Leslie Ratley-Beach joined The Land Trust Alliance as its first Conservation Defense Director in August 2007. Leslie led the effort that created the first ever national conservation defense liability insurance program (Terraforma Risk Retention Group LLC) and she continues to coordinate the delivery of services to Terraforma as well as leading the Alliance's conservation defense center and directing the Conservation Defense Network of national conservation experts. She is a national author and speaker. Previously, Leslie worked with the Vermont Land Trust for almost 13 years as Stewardship Director and prior to that was Project Counsel. She was Stewardship Director leading the program responsible for more than 1430 conservation easements on over 470,000 acres of land with more 1200 landowners. Prior to that she was project counsel with Vermont Land Trust where she drafted and helped negotiate more than 500 conservation easements. Leslie has a law degree from Boston University and Bachelors' degrees from University of Oregon.

#### ***Gregory S. Schultz, Esq. - RI Attorney General's Office, Environmental Unit***

Gregory S. Schultz has been a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Unit of the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General since 2009. He specializes in environmental litigation, regulation, and enforcement, as well as land management and conservation issues, in an effort to protect Rhode Island's natural resources. Prior to working for the RIAG, Greg was Legal Counsel to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for eight years. Greg was also an 8-year Board member of the Aquidneck Land Trust and Chair of its Litigation Committee. Greg is a graduate of Michigan State University and Roger Williams University School of Law. When not working, he enjoys spending time outdoors fishing, hunting, hiking and exploring.