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## **CAREER OBJECTIVE**

To preserve the natural world and traditional cultures through the media of creative writing and film.

## **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

### **Centre College**

Danville, Kentucky

Self-designed Liberal Arts BA (Anthropology, History, Religion, Government), 1991

### **Vermont Law School**

South Royalton, Vermont

Master's Degree in Environmental Policy, 1994

### **Vermont Law School**

South Royalton, Vermont

Juris Doctorate, 1997

### **Hollins University**

Roanoke, Virginia

Graduate Courses in Film Studies and Screenwriting, 2010

### **Maine Media Workshops & College**

Rockport, Maine

Four-Week Documentary Film Workshop, 2011

## **RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Freelance Writer & Documentary Filmmaker**

*Based in Staunton, Virginia*

September 2009 – Present

- Regularly writing articles and essays for publication in a wide variety of magazines and websites, including *Slate*, *Grit*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, *The Southern Quarterly*, *The Utne Reader*, *African Wildlife News*, *Earth Island Journal*, *Virginia Wildlife*, *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *History Today*, *Blue Ridge Digest*, *Virginia Sportsman*, *Africa Geographic*, *Virginia Business*, *science.kqed.org/quest*, *nrahuntersrights.org*, *strangebehaviors.wordpress.com*, etc.
- Produced, directed, shot, edited and scored a short documentary entitled *Return of the Native* concerning the reintroduction of declining seabirds to the coast of New England.

- Currently in postproduction having directed a crew of 15 in a full-length documentary about an all-volunteer dog rescue group in rural western Virginia.

### **Easement Specialist**

*Conservation Partners, LLC, Lexington, Virginia*

October 2007 – August 2009

- Provided specialized consultation to conservation easement donors and their attorneys, appraisers, accountants, and other advisors covering all aspects of the easement donation process, necessitating a thorough understanding and application of relevant state and federal law including the Internal Revenue Code.
- Actively managed easement donation for clients, facilitated the drafting of deeds of easement, prepared tax documentation for state agency review, and registered clients' state income tax credits.
- Worked collaboratively with local land trusts to advance conservation throughout Virginia.
- Furthered the mission of Conservation Partners, LLC, by writing dozens of thoughtful op-ed articles on the conservation easement process appropriate to regional newspapers throughout Virginia and by publishing a number of feature articles on natural history, wilderness issues, and the mechanics of land conservation in regional and national magazines.

### **Contractual Employment**

*Conservation Partners, LLC, Lexington, Virginia*

June 2005 – October 2007

- Provided comprehensive reviews of open-space and historic conservation easements for adherence to state and federal laws requiring that they provide “significant public benefit” through the permanent protection of identified conservation values.
- Evaluated real estate appraisals for qualification under the Code of Virginia and US Treasury regulations relevant to conservation easements.

### **Law Firm Employment**

*Vellines, Cobbs, Goodwin & Glass, PLC, Staunton, Virginia*

March 2006 – April 2007

- Worked on cases involving wills, trust and estates; real property; land use; domestic relations; criminal defense; contract and lease disputes; corporate law; and personal injury.
- Interviewed clients and drafted pleadings; performed legal research; wrote wills, POAs and AMDs; drafted contracts, leases and liability waivers, articles of incorporation and by-laws, prenuptial agreements and QDROs.

### **Executive Director**

*Valley Conservation Council (VCC), Staunton, Virginia*

December 2002 – July 2003

- Provided leadership to eleven-county regional land trust by elucidating the finer points of conservation easements before individuals and civic groups; helped propel VCC's land conservation agenda toward a record-breaking year.
- Successfully wrote foundational grants for both general operations and specific projects. Personally solicited major gifts from private donors.
- Secured funding and office space for a satellite office to specifically serve the rapidly developing lower Shenandoah Valley.
- Reorganized the Board of Directors into action committees that better contributed toward VCC's strategic plan.
- Lobbied the state legislature to increase funding for natural resource agencies and to enact priority legislation.

- Supervised three other staff members and professionally interacted with a twenty-member board of directors.
- Regularly represented VCC before governmental agencies, educational organizations and local and national conservation groups, and partnered with these organizations to achieve mutual goals.

### **Legal and Policy Analyst**

June 1999 – September 2000

*Office of General Counsel, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Raleigh, North Carolina*

- Produced a detailed guidance manual on how to properly consider cumulative and secondary environmental impacts under the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (NCEPA) permitting process for state government agencies and permit applicants.
- Member of Governor’s Chip Mill Advisory Study Team that provided recommendations to the scientists of the Southern Center for Sustainable Forests on impacts to the state’s resources resulting from tree plantations, habitat conversion and other aspects of industrial forestry.
- Revised the NCEPA permit system’s minimum environmental criteria standards to better meet the needs of permit applicants while ensuring environmental protection.
- Lead contact in NC DENR in developing and implementing the Governor’s Million Acre Initiative, a land-conservation program; facilitated other planning aspects of the administration’s Smart Growth campaign.
- Performed litigation preparation and legal research for a variety of major environmental cases in North Carolina and acted as a full-time legal assistant to the Environmental Division, NC Office of the Attorney General, and to the Office of General Counsel, NC DENR.

### **Policy and Legislation Associate**

January – September 1997

*Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice), Washington, DC*

- Initiated creation of the first all-encompassing review of contractual Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) as negotiated under § 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) between the US Fish & Wildlife Service and private landowners. Wrote hundreds of detailed HCP briefs and helped to create a website for their national distribution.
- Analyzed and contributed to statutory initiatives pertaining to the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Effectively lobbied members of Congress for passage of responsible environmental legislation.
- Through extensive review and critique of several pertinent HCPs, launched regional educational and mobilization campaign in the South to make citizens and elected officials aware of the scope and potentialities of ESA § 10.

### **Legal Externship**

August – December 1996

*Environmental Semester in Washington Program of the Vermont Law School: Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice), Washington, DC*

- Gained valuable experience lobbying Congress against anti-environmental clauses in proposed legislation; examined and reported on historical congressional intent concerning the meanings of “jeopardy” and “recovery” within the 1982 Endangered Species Act (ESA) amendments.
- Prepared a comprehensive report on the relations of the Clean Air Act to prescribed silvicultural burning.

- Surveyed leading scientists and prepared the Legal Defense Fund’s comments on a US Fish & Wildlife Service proposal to eliminate ESA prelisting designations, which provided proactive conservation for declining species.

### **Legal Internships**

February – May 1995

I) *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of General Counsel, Natural Resources Division, Washington, DC*

- Wrote a manual detailing the significance of all United States Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) legal cases for use by the General Counsel; compiled legal history of Forest Service for use by Congress.
- Frequently attended Congressional hearings involving forestry issues and the reauthorization of the ESA and delivered detailed reports to the General Counsel.

II) *Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality, Washington, DC*

- Researched and edited an extensive list of NEPA case analyses for Congressional examination of forestry and livestock grazing on public lands. Performed comprehensive field research on the changing perceptions among grass-roots environmentalists of the Clinton Administration’s environmental commitment.

### **MEMBERSHIPS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- Founder and Former Chairman, Shenandoah Valley Chapter, Virginia Production Alliance
- Elected “Best Wildlife Cinematographer,” Maine Media Workshops & College, 2011
- Member, Society of Environmental Journalists
- Member, Outdoor Writers Association of America
- Awarded 2014 Rosen Fellowship, Society of Environmental Journalists
- Awarded 2011 Madson Fellowship, Outdoor Writers Association of America
- 4.0 GPA, Hollins University Film Studies and Screenwriting Graduate Courses
- Member, Virginia Writers Club
- Virginia Bar No. 72573
- Member, Staunton – Augusta Bar Association
- Member, Virginia Bar Association (Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Law Section)
- Member, American Bar Association (Environment, Energy and Resources Section)
- Graduate of the Williamsburg Development Institute, 2003
- Elected to the National Dean’s List, 1995, 1996, 1997, by Vermont Law School
- Dean’s List, Centre College
- Membership: The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Peregrine Fund, Civil War Trust, Wild Virginia, African Wildlife Foundation
- Interests: Hiking, Literature, Fishing, Canoeing, History, Hunting, Birding, History, Biking, Camping, Music, Film

—REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST—