

THE EVERGREEN COUNCIL *News*

SUMMER 2009

Living in Harmony with the Earth

by Dr. Richard Latterell

My late wife Frances and I became involved with Earthjustice many years ago, when it was still the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Our decision to give to Earthjustice was very philosophical. Because Earthjustice uses litigation and goes to court to fight back against destruction to Earth, our true life support system, I will continue to support Earthjustice as long as I can. I applaud every one of its victories.

The environmental crisis is a quiet crisis that has not been adequately addressed in the public arena. It is, however, the most serious issue that our country has faced. We must support and, if we are able to, directly counteract this crisis by guiding our nation and society into new and greener pathways.

My working career was spent as a scientist and science teacher. I'm not affluent, nor have I ever been, but I support over 50 conservation and environmental education groups including NRDC, Sierra Club, and Defenders of Wildlife. In the early '80s when the government was spending on weapons—which turned out to be expensive failures—Frances and I decided a good way to minimize our taxes was to make charitable contributions. We felt our nation is better served that

way, and I know that Earthjustice and other charities will benefit from the ultimate gifts that they will receive after our lifetimes.

I grew up in a rural part of Minnesota and have always been close to nature. Frances was from urban Kansas City. Together, with our different backgrounds, we came to understand our dependence on our natural life support system. We also came to understand how much our earth has been degraded and how important it is for us to do all we can to stop and reverse the harm that has been committed against our life support system.

We must learn to partner with nature, live in harmony with it, and manage its bounties sustainably rather than exploiting them. These are the only ways we can reverse the downward spiral of environmental degradation and live as free people in a free society.

If you would like more information about how you can make a similar commitment to Earthjustice, please call us today at (800) 584-6460, write using the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or go online to www.earthjustice.org/summerlegacy. Visit our website to read more about Dr. Latterell, Earthjustice, and ways to support our work.



EARTHJUSTICE
Because the earth needs a good lawyer



Frances and Richard Latterell

"I will continue to support Earthjustice as long as I can. I applaud every one of its victories."

-Dr. Richard Latterell



THE BIRTHPLACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

In a landmark court case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court, Earthjustice challenged Walt Disney Corporation's plans to turn the spectacular Mineral King valley in California's Sierra Nevada into one of the world's largest ski resorts. Walt Disney ultimately abandoned its plans, and the valley's pristine environment has since been made a part of Sequoia National Park. In March 2009, President Obama bestowed permanent wilderness status to Mineral King, bringing a fitting ending to the little-known valley that would become one of the birthplaces of environmental law.

Earthjustice at Work

Whether you care about forests, endangered wildlife, global warming, clean water, or fresh air, Earthjustice has been representing your interests every day. For nearly 40 years, Earthjustice has provided effective legal services to nearly 1,000 public interest clients, large and small—and always free of charge. Your commitment to our work enables us to speak on behalf of millions of Americans, with well-crafted lawsuits that get important results.

You'll find us working in the courts...in the halls of Congress...in your local communities...using the law to raise environmental standards so that, over time, our air and water become cleaner, our forests and wildlife prosper, and renewable energy powers more of our cities.

Earthjustice is well-positioned to use the power of the law to create momentum for change. While supporting the Obama administration as it pursues a new environmental agenda, Earthjustice is working to:

- **Preserve our Natural Heritage** by protecting ancient forests and public lands and helping endangered species recover, even in a changing climate. Our legal and legislative work have preserved millions of acres of pristine wilderness by limiting unnecessary road building; stopped the clear-cutting of old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest; and protected countless canyons and mesas in the Southwest from destructive gas and oil development.
- **Safeguard our Health** by ensuring the public of clean air and water through stronger enforcement against toxic pollutants. Our combination of legal

expertise and advocacy also safeguards communities from exposure to harmful chemicals and pesticides. In cities imperiled by industrial pollutants, such as mercury, we are closing industry loopholes and accelerating the clean-up of polluted sites and facilities.

- **Promote a Clean Energy Future** by curbing America's dependence on dirty coal and improving energy efficiency standards. The fastest, cheapest way of reducing greenhouse gases is to use less energy—and use it more efficiently. And we're using the power of the law to increase energy efficiency standards for consumer goods and commercial equipment on a national level.

Earthjustice's success in precedent-setting cases leads to broad-based, positive change. When the gains or losses are substantial, as they are with nationwide clean-air standards or species threatened with extinction, Earthjustice will likely get involved. We will also intervene if the potential ruling will affect other cases or impact environmental policy across the country. Finally, Earthjustice selects cases where there are clear violations of environmental laws—one of the reasons we are so successful in court. Rarely do we take on a case just to make a point.

When we get involved, we intend to win. No matter how long it takes. Our record of dedication and success speaks to that philosophy. We cannot protect our air, water, forests, public lands, endangered species, and human health without you. Thank you for standing with us.

A Bequest Could Be the Most Important Charitable Gift You Ever Make

Recent turmoil in the financial markets may make you feel like you cannot make long-term financial plans, but it is essential that you create a smart estate plan to meet your financial and philanthropic goals. Through careful planning you may find that you can provide for your loved ones, make a meaningful gift to charity, and preserve your assets for any needs that arise. Leave a legacy of compassion and concern for the future of environmental protection with a bequest to Earthjustice.

FAMILY COMES FIRST

Charitable gifts included as part of your long-range estate and financial planning can offer a wonderful way to provide lasting support for Earthjustice. It can be possible to make a “gift of a lifetime” without affecting your family’s future security. After your loved ones have received the assets you designate for them, you can arrange for Earthjustice to receive the remainder of your estate.

SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Estate gifts can be funded with cash, securities, real estate, or other property.
- Estate gifts can help you minimize taxes and settlement costs and conserve more of your estate for loved ones.

- A gift of all or a portion of the “residue” of your estate can be made to charity after financial commitments and bequests to your loved ones are met.
- Gifts may be stated in terms of a percentage of an estate, thereby allowing gifts to increase or decrease depending on the value of the assets remaining.
- Remember to review your estate plans every few years. If your circumstances change, you can modify your estate plans at any time. Changes can be made by simply drafting a new will or living trust or by amending your existing document.
- Increasingly popular gift planning tools enable you to make a gift in line with your values while enjoying increased income (for life or another period of time you determine), tax savings, and other benefits.

We would be pleased to provide more information to you and your advisors concerning ways you can provide a lasting legacy while preserving financial security for you and your loved ones. For free, confidential information, please call us at (800) 584-6460 or return the enclosed reply card.

To include Earthjustice as a beneficiary of your estate, keep this information handy for when you meet with your planners:

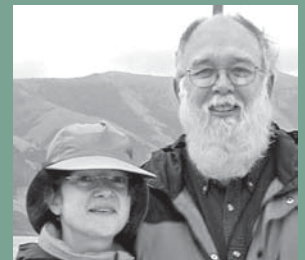
Earthjustice • 426 17th Street, 6th Floor • Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (800) 584-6460 • Tax ID: 94-1730465

Sample language for wills and trusts: “I give and bequeath to Earthjustice, Tax ID #: 94-1730465, the sum of \$_____ (or ____% of the rest and remainder of my estate, or _____% of my estate).”



“We have an old t-shirt from Earthjustice: an image of a spotted owl with the caption, ‘I’ve got a good lawyer.’ Wildlife, ecosystems, and other environmental causes need smart, dedicated attorneys. Earthjustice fills that need and we’re proud to support it.”

—Alan Locklear
and Marie Valleroy
Portland, Oregon



The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMIX RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NWXX-09



THE EVERGREEN COUNCIL

Our legacy society recognizes more than 900 supporters who have remembered Earthjustice in their wills, living trusts, or other estate plans, as well as those who have established charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

If you have arranged for a legacy gift for Earthjustice and have not informed us before, please let us know! We would like to thank you, recognize you as an Evergreen Council member in our annual reports, invite you to events, and send you special updates on our work.

Promoting a Thriving Natural Environment, Healthy Communities, and a Clean Energy Future

Thank you so much for your commitment to Earthjustice, **one of the most effective environmental organizations in the country**. Your ongoing support ensures our ability to create lasting protection of our air, water, forests, public lands, endangered species, and human health—not just for today, but for many generations to come. Please consider joining Dr. Richard Latterell and our other Evergreen Council members by taking the first step in creating your environmental legacy.

After you have made arrangements to provide for family and loved ones, your remaining assets can create meaningful gifts to causes nearest to your heart. Estate plans are flexible and can easily be changed or amended as needed in the years to come.

If you have already remembered Earthjustice in your estate plans, please accept our sincerest thanks. We encourage you to share with us your commitment to Earthjustice's future so that we can thank you and welcome you as a member of The Evergreen Council, our legacy society, as well as better plan for our future work.

We invite you to share our vision for a thriving natural environment, healthy communities, and clean energy future, and join with us in achieving it. I would be glad to answer any questions you or your advisors have or help in any way. To learn more about how you can create a legacy of environmental protection, please contact our gift planning department: toll-free at (800) 584-6460, at legacy@earthjustice.org, or via the enclosed reply card.

Sincerely,

Tracy Donahoe
Director of Planned Gifts



For more information about special giving opportunities at Earthjustice, please contact us at:

The Earthjustice Evergreen Council

Tracy Donahoe • Molly Blackford • Jeanine Ishii

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