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The Delaware Riverkeeper to Deliver Keynote at Environmental & Energy Law Forum

Albany, NY – Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, will deliver the keynote address about the Green Amendment movement and her book *The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment* on May 23 at the New York State Bar Association Environmental & Energy Law Forum.

The Green Amendment outlines the need for constitutional protection of our environmental rights. In 2013, van Rossum and her team won a watershed legal victory that not only protected Pennsylvania communities from ruthless frackers, but breathed legal life into the constitutional right of people in the state to a clean and healthy environment.

“The people of New York do not have a constitutional provision guaranteeing their right to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment. Every day current and future generations of New Yorkers are losing their ability to access clean water or air, and are suffering from the damages of floods, droughts and climate change as the result of environmental degradation,” said van Rossum. “I hope to inspire this group of lawyers and advocates to fight for constitutional protection of environmental rights for the people of New York.”

Following this victory, van Rossum inaugurated the Green Amendment movement, dedicated to empowering every American community to mobilize for constitutional change. In *The Green Amendment*, van Rossum lays out an inspiring new agenda for environmental advocacy, one that will empower people.

This strategy allows people to recognize that they have a right to pure water, clean air, and a healthy environment, and one that allows people to claim and defend that right in the courts if necessary. *The Green Amendment* includes a powerful foreword authored by Mark Ruffalo, which supports the visionary constitutional path advocated for in the book.

Van Rossum has been traveling around the country educating citizens about the need for green amendments and what steps they can take towards advancing a green amendment in their state. While New York has language about the environment in its Constitution, there is nothing in the bill of rights section. In April, the New York State Assembly passed a bill proposing a constitutional environmental amendment. The bill would need to be passed in the Senate to move forward.

The New York State Bar Association Environmental & Energy Law Forum will take place from 10am – 2pm at the New York State Bar Center.

To learn more about the book, and Maya van Rossum, visit mayavanrossum.green.

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