

ALBANY LAW EVENT TO EXAMINE THE BIG SPILL

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The massive BP oil catastrophe, described as the world's worst marine crude oil spill, will be discussed this week at an Albany Law School symposium.

Two panels of government officials, law professors and attorneys will look into the legal ramifications of the spill, whether current regulations are sufficient and what the federal government can do to prevent similar disasters.

"Big Oil, Big Consequences, and the Big Unknown," sponsored by Albany Law Review, will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday at the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom. The event is free and open to the public.

The April 20 well rupture in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 people, put many in the region out of work and led to a multi-billion dollar class-action lawsuit against BP.

One panel will focus on "Oil Spill Liability and Damages," and the other on "Disaster Response: Assessing the Adequacy of Environmental Law, Regulations, and Litigations."

Participants on the first panel are Vincent Foley, a partner in the New York office of Holland & Knight; Maureen Leary, of the environmental protection bureau of the state attorney general's office; and John Privitera, a partner in the Albany firm of McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams.

The second panel will be moderated by Albany Law professor Keith Hirokawa and includes Rebecca Bratspies, a law professor at City University of New York; Aaron Gershonowitz, a partner in the Long Island firm of Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo, Cohn & Terrana; Tracy Hester, a professor at the University of Houston law school; and Jeffrey Miller, a professor at Pace Law School in Westchester County.

The Law Review is seeking articles on spill-related topics for a book scheduled to be published in January. A reception will be from 4 to 6 p.m. following the discussion. For more information go to www.albanylawreview.org.