

Nomination Packet for PLM Program Director Kris Koski

School of Energy Resources, University of Wyoming

January 10, 2023

I am extremely honored to write a nomination letter on behalf of PLM Director and Associate Lecturer, Mr. Kristopher Koski for PLM Director of the Year with AAPL. Mr. Kris is a gifted Director and faculty member at the University of Wyoming. He has consistently impressed me with his talents in and out of the classroom. It is evident he has impressed students as well, as Kris has some of the highest teaching evaluations I have ever had the pleasure of reading. In this letter, I would like to describe this talented Director to you. In the fall of 2020, Mr. Koski took over as the Director of the Professional Land Management (PLM) program within the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming. He also serves as an Associate Lecturer in the PLM program teaching various courses since the fall of 2017. In addition to these roles, Mr. Koski is Of Counsel at Long Reimer Winegar LLP, where he maintains an active oil, gas, carbon storage, renewables and land title, transactional, litigation and regulatory practice. In his practice, Mr. Koski regularly appears before the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the State and Federal Courts of Wyoming. He recently argued in front of the Wyoming Supreme Court and prevailed in a foundational case pertaining to eminent domain in the State of Wyoming. Prior to joining UW, Mr. Koski served as an attorney with two private law firms where he maintained an oil and gas law and land practice. Mr. Koski was an associate at a Houston, Texas based law firm where he represented oil and gas operators in the drafting and production of Drilling and Division Order Title Opinions. While in law school, Mr. Koski was a student intern for the University of Wyoming Legal Services where he assisted indigent clients in family law and various other civil law matters. He was also a student intern for the University of Wyoming School of Environment and Natural Resources where he provided water law research and drafted related legal memoranda. Prior to his law career, Mr. Koski was an electrical engineering intern at Xcel Energy where he worked on various electric power distribution projects. This mix of the legal as well as the technical side of the energy industry provides Mr. Koski with a unique understanding of the challenges associated with energy production and utilization.

Mr. Koski is licensed to practice law in the States of Wyoming and Colorado and is active in the Wyoming Association of Professional Landmen and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. Mr. Koski is currently serving as a member of the Ethics Committee for WAPL. Mr. Koski holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the Colorado School of Mines '05 and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wyoming College Of Law '08, where he was top of his law class.

Mr. Koski focuses his legal practice primarily in the oil, gas, and natural resource areas of the law. He maintains a diverse practice representing a wide variety of energy companies and landowners in title, transactional, regulatory and litigation matters. Mr. Koski regularly speaks on various topics to groups such as the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, the Wyoming Association of Professional Landmen, the State Bar of Wyoming Natural Resources Section and the National Business Institute.

Memberships and Associations: Mr. Koski is a member of the Wyoming Bar Association, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, United States Energy Association, American Association of Professional Landmen and the Wyoming Association of Professional Landmen.

Speaking Engagements:

- University of Wyoming Rocky Mountain Professional Landman Conference, Moderator for “New Opportunities for Land Profession” [Recording Available Here](#)
- University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources Webinar, December 16, 2021, “CCUS Development in Wyoming Webinar,” co-panelist. [Recording Available Here](#)
- University of Wyoming College of Law, EENR Luncheon Series, October 19, 2021, “Regulatory and Legal Hurdles in Pore Space Development in Wyoming.” [Recording Available Here](#)
- [University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, “Exploring the Bounds of Possibility – A roundtable discussing the legal extent and economic impacts of stalling new energy production on federal lands,” webinar February 2, 2021.](#)
- 2020 CO2 Conference & Carbon Management Workshop, “Study on States’ Policies and Regulations per CO2-EOR Storage Conventional, ROZ, and EOR in Shale,” webinar December 10, 2020.
- United States Energy Association, “Study on States’ Policies and Regulations per CO2-EOR Storage Conventional, ROZ, and EOR in Shale,” webinar December 3, 2020.
- AAPL Field Landman Seminar, “The Process for Private Eminent Domain in Wyoming,” Cheyenne, Wyoming, October 22, 2020
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Oil & Gas Mineral Title Examination, “Basic Mineral and Leasehold Conveyancing,” Westminster, Colorado, September 25, 2019
- WAPL Educational Event, “The Wyoming Race for APDs and the Wyoming Royalty Payment Act,” Cheyenne, Wyoming, March 1, 2019
- Wyoming State Bar, “Nuts and Bolts of the Wyoming Royalty Payment Act and other Emerging Issues in Oil and Gas Development in Wyoming,” May 2018
- National Business Institute Seminar, “Foundations of Estate Administration in Wyoming and Preparing to Begin the Administration Process,” Cheyenne, Wyoming, December 2016
- Guest Lecturer, Oil and Gas Service Agreements and Drilling Contracts, University of Wyoming College of Law, Advanced Oil & gas
- NBI Seminar, Cheyenne, Wyoming, December 12, 2013, “Foundations of Estate Administration in Wyoming and Preparing to Begin the Administration Process” – [see course materials here.](#)

Published Articles:

- “The Carbon Storage Future of Public Lands,” Pace Environmental Law Review, Volume 38, Spring 2021, Number 2, co-author. Paper Available Here: <https://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1847&context=peir>

- [“Study on States’ Policies and Regulations per CO2-EOR-Storage Conventional, ROZ and EOR in Shale: Permitting, Infrastructure, Incentives, Royalty Owners, Eminent Domain, Mineral-Pore Space, and Storage Lease Issues,” United States Energy Association, September 2020, co-author.](#)
- Kris Koski & Tara Righetti, Basic Mineral and Leasehold Conveyancing, Oil & Gas Mineral Title Examination, 4-1 Rocky Mt. Min. L. Fdn. (2019).
- [“Legal Analysis of Ground Water and Surface Water Conjunctive Management Within the Context of Wyoming Water Law”, co-author as part of Wyoming Water Research Program Annual Technical Report FY 2009.](#)

Kris prides himself on providing real world experience to students. An excellent example of this was with his work addressing racial covenants with students in Wyoming. Learn more about his work with students in a Wyoming community [here](#). On an annual basis, students are taken on a field trip to attend the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. This allows students to see and interact with experts, listen in on hearings, tour the facility, etc. Read more about their recent visit [here](#).

While we at the School of Energy Resources at UW cannot say enough good things about Kris and his impact on our PLM program and students, it might help you to evaluate Kris by seeing what others say about him as well. Included below are letters of support regarding Kris’s role at SER. Letters include Marc Strahn, current Chairman of our Industry Advisory Board for the PLM Program at UW; Executive Director/Dean of the School of Energy Resources, Holly Krutka; Occidental Chair and Co-Director of our Nuclear Center at SER, Professor Tara Righetti; Wyoming Association of Professional Landmen President, Adam Sarvey; Alumnus from our program, and AAPL’s Outstanding Graduate, Samuel Mallory; and lastly, a letter of support from our Student Chapter of Energy Resources. Combined, we give our recommendation of Mr. Kristopher Koski as AAPL Director of the Year.



THE WOLF HAVEN CORPORATION

MARC RANDAL STRAHN
PRESIDENT

KATHI HANSON
VICE PRESIDENT

January 4, 2023

Selection Committee
AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year Award
AAPL Accreditation Committee

To Whom it May Concern,

I write this letter to you in support of the nomination of Kristopher Koski, Director of the University of Wyoming, School of Energy Resources, Professional Land Management Program, for the AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year Award.

Kris, a licensed and practicing attorney, is an exceptional and outstanding Director of the University of Wyoming Program and instructor of several of its courses. The course work at the University of Wyoming is one of the hardest four year programs in our undergraduate system because of its reliance on law courses from the University Law School and other advanced scientific courses of study. This requires a Director of advance skill and education to maintain the professional standards established for that program. Kris is that Director. He is highly regarded and liked by the students in the program. He consistently responds to the fundamental challenges and changes of our profession by creating an environment that leads the country in educating the next generation of our professional Landmen. An AAPL member, Kris has demonstrated time and again his commitment to the University of Wyoming Program and the ethical and professional standards of AAPL.

I am proud and privileged to write this letter for Kris in support of his nomination for this high professional honor. You will not find a better candidate.

Sincerely yours,

Marc Randal Strahn, CPL, AAPL Past President
Chairman of University of Wyoming PLM Program Professional Advisory Board



January 6, 2023

Selection Committee
AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year Award
AAPL Accreditation Committee

To Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter in support of Kris Koski for the 2023 AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year Award. Professor Koski is the Director of the University of Wyoming, School of Energy Resources, Professional Land Management Program.

In addition to serving as Director for our program, Professor Koski is licensed, practicing attorney. His real-world expertise benefit our students as he teaches them with his exceptional instructional approach, which is highly engaging and effective in aiding the interdisciplinary student population enrolled in his classes. Professor Koski's classes are often students' first exposure to legal concepts and a law school approach to instruction. Being a practicing Wyoming attorney and having graduated first in his class from the UW College of Law, he is well suited and experienced with this style of instruction, which requires interaction of students by calling on them to answer questions throughout the instruction. Experiencing his unique approach is often mentioned as a high point for many SER students as evidenced in the letters of support provided by both current and former students.

Professor Koski is fully dedicated to the success of his students, both inside and outside the classroom. He connects students with potential employers by arranging networking opportunities – even going the extra mile to arrange transportation. Professor Koski also is committed to experiential learning and offering meaningful experiences for his students. For example, in 2019 Professor Koski developed a service-learning project during which students identified Cheyenne neighborhoods with racially restrictive covenants in their deeds and worked with homeowners to remove the covenants. The project included using assessor records to identify homeowners, conducting searches through the Laramie County Clerk's office, drafting letters and a trip to Cheyenne to meet with homeowners in person. This project was tied directly to course learning objectives and allowed students to improve communication and research skills across digital and in person modalities. Needless to say, this innovative and touching assignment deeply impacted the students.

Without Professor Koski, the School of Energy Resources would not be able to deliver our curriculum and our students would certainly not find a more dedicated, caring, humble instructor elsewhere.

Please contact me with any questions about this letter of support or the nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Holly Krutka'.

Holly Krutka
Executive Director, UW School of Energy Resources



SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Tara Righetti • Occidental Professor of Energy and Environmental Policies
Co-Director, Nuclear Energy Research Center
Mailing: Dept. 3012 • 1000 E. University Avenue • Laramie, Wyoming 82071
Tara.righetti@uwyo.edu

January 6, 2023

Dear Selection Committee,

It is my honor to support Kris Koski's nomination and candidacy for the AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year. Kris took over from me as the director of the program in 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. He not only stewarded the program through the pandemic and the numerous changes in education during that period, but has also strengthened our industry partnerships, expanded our curricular offerings and partnerships with other academic units, and grew our enrollment. Kris is a well-recognized leader in the spaces of energy law and land management in Wyoming and nationwide.

The PLM academic program at UW has thrived under Professor Koski's leadership. Kris has worked with our new academic director and admissions team to grow the percentage of women in the PLM program. Enrollment by female students has grown by 50% since 2020. Kris has also expanded our curricular offerings, including through development of a minor in Energy Resource Management, a certificate in CCUS, and a 3+3 program with the College of Law. As part of these new offerings, Kris has helped expand our curriculum to cover additional topics related to the transformation of the energy industry including renewables, transmission, decarbonization pipelines, and hydrogen. Next year the program will include the first-ever course on nuclear energy project development. These new programs and courses will help to expand the reach of land and energy education on campus and have the potential to bring a greater number of students into the profession.

Kris is an ambassador for the AAPL program and the land profession with industry. Last year he organized the inaugural Rocky Mountain Professional Landman Conference. It had more than 90 attendees and provided an excellent opportunity for students and industry to connect. The conference will be held again in May of 2023.

I would be happy to answer any questions the committee has about Kris' leadership of the PLM program.

Respectfully,

Adam Sarvey
Wyoming Association of Professional Landmen
3604 Wyandot St
Denver, CO 80211
January 9, 2023

Dear AAPL Awards Committee:

As President of the Wyoming Association of Professional Landmen and on behalf of the organization, we would like to recommend Kris Koski for AAPL Program Director of the Year Award.

Mr. Koski has been involved with WAPL for many years and is a valuable asset to the organization, the PLM Students of University of Wyoming and the land industry of Wyoming. Mr. Koski is a bright and personable individual who has shown strong leadership to the PLM program.

Mr Koski has been instrumental in coordinating and planning AAPL events at the University of Wyoming which provide valuable experience and networking opportunities to the students as well as the landmen of Wyoming.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

Adam Sarvey

Adam Sarvey

President

January 9th, 2023

Sam Mallory

RE: The Nomination of Professor Kris Koski for the AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year Award

Dear members of the AAPL Accreditation Committee,

It is with much enthusiasm that I recommend Kris Koski for the AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year Award. Through my previous experience as a student in his courses, and a current member of the University of Wyoming's Professional Land Management ("PLM") Industry Advisory Board, I can attest Mr. Koski is an enthusiastic educator, engaged supporter, and strategic leader deserving of this recognition.

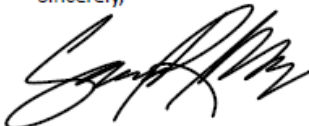
Professor Koski serves not only as the Director of UW's program but also as an exuberant educator with a contagious passion for the law courses he teaches. He shares his passion with all of his students and deliberately seeks out those topics that pique each one's interests; inviting each of them to become excited about each subject he teaches. For example, he was able to take the objectively boring legal topic of the Rule Against Perpetuities and stimulate a classroom of students to the point where their Friday night party conversation was about how, "no interest is good unless it must vest, if at all, no later than twenty-one years after some life in being at the creation..."; no small feat! A small testament to how Professor Koski's authentic passion for the law can ignite the flame of curiosity in his students.

Remarkably, Mr. Koski's unwavering passion for the subjects he teaches and relentless desire to develop the students in the UW PLM program inspires them to apply their classroom knowledge to real-world problems. One example, was the development of a project to rid several cities in Wyoming of racially prejudicial covenants. Through the education in his Property Law courses, and through his passionate support of the project as a sponsor for the student organization, his students began a process of identifying and eradicating racially prejudicial covenants on title property records in Cheyenne and Laramie. Professor Koski's comprehensive classroom education equipped his students with the capabilities to address this problem while his clear passion for the law and community development inspired the students to leverage their capabilities to better the community. Here he illustrated the breadth of application for a Land Professional and embodied AAPL's strong Code of Ethics; establishing material community goodwill. Notably, Professor Koski acted with humility when this project received positive press and resulted in a codified law for expedited removal of racially prejudicial covenants; crediting his students for the entirety of the work despite his heavy involvement and support.

Through his leadership, the program is now structured to enable students to receive a broader education in energy and realize a greater capacity to overcome the challenges of the future. Previously fossil-fuel centric courses have been broadened to unveil the full energy spectrum, the curriculum is more adaptable allowing for multiple new minors and an accelerated path to a Juris Doctorate, and extracurricular events such as the Rocky Mountain Landman Conference now offer greater exposure to the extent of roles land professionals occupy. Mr. Koski's strategic stewardship is progressing the capabilities of, and opportunities for, land professionals and is resulting in impactful outcomes for students.

Kris Koski is a truly remarkable Director with a sincere, humble passion for the development of the students in the Professional Land Management at the University of Wyoming. His contagious passion for the Land profession stimulates curiosity in the classroom; while his strong support of the program, and strategic stewardship, is enhancing the definition of a Land Professional and ensuring students are well-equipped to face the future. It is clearly evident that students graduate with more than an education in Professional Land Management thanks to Kris Koski. I sincerely hope you consider recognizing him for his outstanding work as the Director Professional Land Management degree program at the University of Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Samuel R. Mallory



STUDENT CHAPTER OF ENERGY RESOURCES

To Whom It May Concern:

Representing the University of Wyoming's (UW) Professional Land Management (PLM) student body, we are writing to you today in support of Kris Koski's nomination as the AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year. We believe that Koski is well deserving of this award because he has played an integral role in shaping who we are as students and future professionals. He has inspired every one of us to operate with the highest moral standards and it has been an honor and a privilege to be educated under Kris Koski.

Kris Koski is a man of many titles. He is the Director of UW's PLM program, an Associate Lecturer for the University of Wyoming and Of Counsel at Long Reimer Winegar LLP, but we know him best as a professor and mentor to the PLM students of UW. His time spent in the classroom should not be overlooked as he teaches many of our core upper-level courses. These include Introduction to Land Management, Property I & II, Federal Public Land Law, and Advanced Energy Law. As a professor, Kris Koski is only there for the benefit of the students; he wants us to be excited to learn new concepts and ask questions. Kris has mastered the art of conveying complex concepts to students without compromise. This feat is quite rare in today's education system, and we do not take it for granted. Whether it is apparent or not, Professor Koski has been a leader for the AAPL by laying the foundation of knowledge and ethical standards for future landmen. While teaching may be a small aspect of his duties, it is obvious that he always puts his students first.

Outside of the classroom, Kris Koski continues to make himself available for his students. Whether it be guiding and supporting the Student Chapter of Energy Resources or partaking in events hosted by the School of Energy Resources, you can always count on Professor Koski to show up. For example, Kris has provided us the opportunity to see the industry in action at Wyoming's Oil and Gas Commission meetings. While visiting, we were able to learn about the functions of the commission and tour their building. Trips like this are only possible thanks to Koski and the valuable insight gained will go to help advance us in our careers. Furthermore, the wisdom and support he's provided to our students led to the rebuilding of UW's PLM student community lost to the pandemic. Thanks to his advisement, we have emerged stronger than ever with our eyes set on the horizon. As our college careers come to a close, we can rest assured knowing that the future of this program is in great hands under the guidance of Kris Koski.

In sum, Kris Koski is an outstanding director, professor, and mentor. He has inspired students in and out of the classroom and helped many pursue a career in Professional Land Management. Without him, the University of Wyoming's PLM program would not be what it is today. By constantly devoting so much of his time to us, he has provided the opportunity to all PLM students to have success in their careers. Words cannot describe our gratitude for Professor Koski and all that he has done for us. We can only hope that the AAPL recognizes how important Kris Koski has been, and will continue to be, in laying the foundation for this profession's future.

Respectfully,

University of Wyoming's PLM Student Body