

ELENA KEEN

SUMMARY

Dr. Elena Keen has spent the past 15 years involved in the details of coastal zone management issues, taking an interdisciplinary approach through law, marine science, and community engagement. She recently completed her Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine System Science at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, Texas. Her dissertation research reviewed offshore oil and gas decommissioning strategies and rigs-to-reefs programs in the Gulf of Mexico, with an emphasis on financial liability and cost estimation. She holds a master's degree in Marine and Environmental Science from the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Prior to her time in the Virgin Islands and Texas, she spent six years working in environmental litigation at the law firm of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. in Washington, D.C. She is currently a Principal at Elena Keen Consulting, LLC in Austin, Texas, which provides expert assistance on complex coastal zone management matters on a national and international level.

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas, Ph.D. (Coastal and Marine System Science) 2017.

University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, M.S. (Marine and Environmental Science) 2013.

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, B.S. (Physical Education and Exercise Science) 1994.

EXPERIENCE

2018 – Present

ELENA KEEN CONSULTING, LLC

Principal. Elena Keen Consulting, LLC, (EKC) strives to protect the oceans on a global scale using expert advice and experience in coastal zone management. EKC relies on a strong network of individuals and organizations, which are experts in their respective fields. Environmental issues are carefully reviewed, and an expert team addresses each facet of the environmental challenge, creating a tailored and specifically focused response. EKC uses this approach to develop and prepare strategic reports and solutions for clients.

2013 to 2017

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, Corpus Christi, Texas

Fellow, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Performed marine science research including review of Gulf of Mexico and California rigs-to-reefs programs. Topics included legal matters and policy issues, environmental, navigational and safety concerns involved in oil and gas decommissioning, international collaboration, offshore oil and gas industry financial decommissioning obligations including cost determination, liability and security. A Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) model was used as a solution to address decommissioning challenges on a case-by-case basis.

Assisted in the development of the Proposed Strategies for Coastal Management Program Enhancement, Phase I (High-level) Assessment, 2016-2020, prepared for Texas GLO (General Land Office).

Adjunct Professor, College of Science and Engineering. Professor of Professional Skills, an undergraduate required course for Environmental Science undergraduates. Topics included interviewing, resumes, and preparing a final research paper.

2010 to 2013

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Graduate Research Assistant. Performed research including community engagement and social resilience, studying whether the experience of visiting a coral reef changes attitudes and opinions about the environmental protection of these delicate ecosystems.

Coastal Policy Intern, Nova Southeastern University. Assisted in the development of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, working with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

Environmental Consultant, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. Confidential consultant for Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., regarding land use and potential environmental threats posed by a private home development company on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Local Recruitment Coordinator, Coastal Use Mapping Project, NOAA. Recruited over 50 people from various backgrounds to assist NOAA in the preparation of a Coastal Use Mapping Project to help the agency understand the human uses of the island of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

2004 to 2010

BEVERIDGE & DIAMOND, P.C. Washington, D.C.

Environmental Litigation Paralegal. Legal knowledge and trial experience of environmental issues, including ground water contamination, coal tar non-point source pollution, Hexavalent chromium contamination and biosolids management. Coordination with managing law firm partners in preparing various practice group area responses to Requests for Proposals and Requests for Qualifications for both local and national work opportunities.

PUBLICATIONS

Plough, A., Keen, E.K. (data only). American Idle: Decommissioning costs sink offshore drillers into latest crisis. *Debtwire Investigations*, August 3, 2017.

Keen, E.K. The billion-dollar problem brewing in the Gulf. *Environment, Coastal & Offshore (ECO) Magazine*, May 2017.

CERTIFICATIONS

PADI Open Water Diver, 2010

PADI Enriched Air Nitrox 2012

Scientific Diver in Training: American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) 2013

Boater Education Certification, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 2014

FILM PROJECTS

Co-founder and Owner, Reef Renaissance Film Festival, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

Co-founder, BLUE on Tour and Harte of the Gulf Film Competition, 2016

Competition Jury Member, BLUE Ocean Film Festival & Conservation Summit, 2014

Festival Chair, Cinefish, 66th Annual GCFI Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas 2013