November 22, 2016

Underwater Heritage: The Law & Future of Treasure Salvage

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm  
Location: Silverman 240A

Underwater cultural heritage, such as the RMS Titanic and other historic shipwrecks, are at the center of battles between treasure hunters and preservationists involving law, policy and ethics. Please join Penn Law and the Arts for a special speaker event with Ole Varner, attorney-advisor to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on the past, present and future of preserving underwater heritage and its exploitation in the US and abroad.

Ole Varner has been a legal adviser to NOAA since 1987. As an attorney-advisor he has worked on a variety of international issues and is primarily responsible for providing advice on the subject areas involving the law of the sea, biological diversity, heritage (natural and cultural), jurisdiction, zones and boundaries in the marine environment. Prior to coming to NOAA, Ole worked for three years in the General Law Division of the Department of Commerce’s Office of the General Counsel, where he worked on a number of issues for NOAA involving environmental compliance in its federal facilities. He later moved to NOAA’s Office of General Counsel in 1990 where he became lead attorney in establishing a number of National Estuarine Research Reserves and National Marine Sanctuaries including the Florida Keys Sanctuary. He has been serving in his current position in the NOAA General Counsel International Section since 1998.

Lunch will be served!