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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Environmental law appeal to be argued over Twitter – for the First time ever

VANCOUVER. On Tuesday, February 21st, 2012 at 10am PST (1pm EST), West Coast Environmental Law will be hosting the world's first ever Twitter Moot. Moot Courts – a simulated court hearing – are a common activity in law schools, but are new to most of Twitter's more than 300 million users. Law students from 5 prominent Canadian law schools are scheduled to compete in this first moot.

Law students will represent Canadian Universities – British Columbia, Dalhousie, Ottawa, Victoria and York (Osgoode Hall) – will represent parties and present their arguments over Twitter in a simulated appeal of an actual court case: *West Moberly First Nations v. British Columbia*. The judges confirmed to hear the appeal (a third judge is still to be announced) include:

- William Deverell (lawyer and author of the critically-acclaimed Arthur Beauchamp Mystery novels); and
- Omar HaRedeye (lawyer, blogger and one of Canada's top 24 social media influencers according to Canadian Lawyer Weekly).

“Legal argument is not often limited to 140 characters or less,” said Jessica Clogg, Executive Director of West Coast Environmental Law. “But Twitter is the perfect medium to raise public awareness about how the law can help protect the environment.”

“The Twitter Moot will tell the story of an Aboriginal Nation fighting to preserve their relationship with the land against coal mining, and of the complicated questions of law and values that come with that conflict,” said Andrew Gage, one of the Moot's organizers. “Tweeps [Twitter users] interested in law, the environment or aboriginal issues will definitely want to follow our Twitter Moot.”

Members of the public seeking to follow the moot can follow www.twitter.com/WCELaw/twtmoot, or can visit West Coast's website at www.wcel.org/twtmoot/ Visit the web pages of the individual teams to leave advice or good wishes to the teams. The Hashtag for the Twitter Moot is #twtmoot.

West Coast Environmental Law thanks the sponsors of the Twitter Moot, or #twtmoot, including Iler Campbell LLP, McCarthy Tetrault, Miller Thomson LLP, Saxe Law Corporation, Skunkworks Communications, and Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers.

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The TwtMoot Web Pages are available at wcel.org/twtmoot.