

## Bio – Kristina Gjerde

### **Kristina Gjerde**

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Kristina M. Gjerde is the Global Marine Program high seas policy advisor. Whilst her first career was in a Manhattan Law Firm defending shipping clients from late fees, it was a scuba diving trip to Palau which made her change course. The beauties of tropical coral reefs and her desire to protect these fragile ecosystems, led her to take on a new assignment as Marine Policy Fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where she sought to identify international legal tools to better protect tropical coral reefs. A graduate of New York University School of Law, Kristina is now a recognized expert in the legal aspects of marine biodiversity conservation. She currently focuses on the deep oceans and high seas beyond national jurisdiction. In 2003, Kristina received a three-year [Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation](#) to promote an improved legal regime for the oceans beyond national jurisdiction. In June 2004 she was selected as New York University Law School's Alumna of the Month to honor her contribution to the field of international marine environmental law. Kristina is the author or co-author of a wide variety of publications and reports (see box below). A native Californian, Kristina did her undergraduate studies at the University of California in Los Angeles, graduating summa cum laude in history in 1981. Kristina is married and lives with her family in Poland.