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Ole Varmer joined NOAA's Office of General Counsel for International Law in 1998. 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 cultural and historic resources, maritime zones and boundaries, coastal zone management, ocean dumping and polar issues. Ole also worked on international issues for NOAA GC in his previous position in the Office of the General Counsel for Ocean Services which he joined in 1990. Prior to coming to NOAA GC, Ole worked for three years in the Department of Commerce Office of the General Counsel General Law Division.

Ole has published a number of articles, periodicals and chapters in books on the law regarding underwater cultural heritage, including The Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: National Perspectives in Light of the UNESCO Convention 2001(Martinus Nijhoff, 2006); Legal Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: National and International Perspectives (Kluwer International, 2000); Underwater Cultural Heritage at Risk: RMS Titanic (UNESCO/ICOMOS, 2006); and "The Case Against the 'Salvage' of the Cultural Heritage," 30 Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce 279-302 (1999).

Ole is a graduate of Yeshiva University's Benjamin Cardozo School of Law (J.D. 1987). He is also a graduate of Columbia Union College (B.S. Business Administration; minor in chemistry, 1980) and earned a Legal Assistant Certificate from George Washington University (1981). Prior to law school, he worked as a legal assistant at Howery & Simon, Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis and Hamel & Park.