



Earth Law Symposium:

Transforming Law and Governance for a Planet in Crisis

September 14-15, 2023

The George Washington University Law School | Jacob Burns Moot Court Room
2000 H Street, NW | Washington, DC 20052

Agenda

Thursday, September 14

12:15 p.m. Opening: Introductions, Conference Overview, and Goals

Dayna Bowen Matthew, Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law, GW Law

Randall S. Abate, Assistant Dean for Environmental Law Studies, GW Law

Grant Wilson, Esq., Executive Director, Earth Law Center

Tony Zelle, Esq., Education and Practice Director, Earth Law Center

12:30 p.m. Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Cormac Cullinan, author of *Wild Law: A Manifesto for Earth Justice*, and Tony Zelle, lead editor of *Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law—A Guide for Practitioners*, discuss the history of the earth law movement and its role in the ecozoic revolution.

Cormac Cullinan, Esq., Wild Law Institute, Biodiversity Law Centre, Cullinan & Associates, Cape Town, South Africa

Tony Zelle, Esq., Education and Practice Director, Earth Law Center

1:30 p.m. Coffee and Networking Break

2 p.m. Nature Governance: How Governments and Corporations Are Attentive to the Voice of Nature

This panel discusses the frameworks for incorporating the interests of local and global ecosystems and their constituents in decision-making at all levels. Where the courts, legislatures, and executive agencies of governments have struggled, earth law adds a qualitative component to efforts, including the voice of nature.

MODERATOR: **Kathryn Gwiazdon**, Executive Director, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law; Chair, Ethics Specialist Group, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law; Adjunct Professor, Northern Illinois University College of Law

PANELISTS: **Alexandra Pimor**, Director, Nature Governance, Earth Law Center

Herman Greene, Esq., Thomas Berry Scholar-in-Residence, Earth Law Center

Andrew Niebler, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Compliance Officer, Karner Blue Capital, LLC

3 p.m. Networking Break

3:15 – 4 p.m. Rights of Nature in Ecuador

This panel addresses current developments in the Rights of Nature in Ecuador. Drawing on the groundbreaking language in Ecuador's constitution, the panel explores how Rights of Nature is applied to legal theories in cases against extractive industries and in contexts where nature's rights are asserted to promote water resource conservation and protect the human right to water.

MODERATOR: **Rachel Conrad**, Co-Director, Dulcepamba Project

PANELISTS: **Carla Cardenas**, Policy Lead, The Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership, UNDP

Diana Ulloa Jimenez, Water Director, Adaptation Latin America; Coordinator, Red Agua Ecuador

Friday, September 15

9 a.m. Welcome and Coffee

9:30 a.m. Rights of Future Generations and Public Trust

Mary Christina Wood is an award-winning professor and co-author of leading textbooks on public trust law and natural resources law. Professor Wood will discuss the public trust doctrine's duty to protect rights of future generations.

Mary Christina Wood, Philip H. Knight Professor and Faculty Director, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center, University of Oregon School of Law

10 a.m.

What Role for Rights of Nature in the Future of Environmental Law?

The Rights of Nature movement has expanded steadily over the past half-century. It has had global impact, raising awareness of the need for legal systems that more effectively protect non-human rights; however, legal recognition of Rights of Nature has been characterized as infringing existing rights of humans and raising procedural and guardianship issues. This panel discusses the obstacles and explores the opportunities ahead for the Rights of Nature.

MODERATOR: **Randall S. Abate**, GW Law

PANELISTS: **Noah Sachs**, Professor of Law, University of Richmond School of Law
Carl Bruch, Esq., Senior Attorney and Director, International Programs, Environmental Law Institute
Kelsey Leonard, Director, Water Advocacy, Earth Law Center
Grant Wilson, Esq., Executive Director, Earth Law Center

11:30 a.m.

Ecocentric Ocean Law

The Ocean Rights movement is a rights-based legal framework for aquatic biodiversity preservation, ecosystem resilience, and human impact mitigation. Ocean ecosystems are living entities that would benefit from recognition of their inherent rights and legal standing. Recognizing the rights of marine ecosystems and species could help lead to greater global protection and restoration of the ocean, which covers 70 percent of the earth. This panel discusses the importance of the marine environment, provides an overview of a bill that was drafted to protect coral reefs through legal rights in the Pacific region, and reviews the Ocean Rights movement's efforts to address ocean governance crises and the threats posed by climate change.

MODERATOR: **Randall S. Abate**, GW Law

PANELISTS: **Rachel Bustamante**, Ocean Science and Policy Analyst, Earth Law Center
Orion Cruz, Esq., International Associate, Defenders of Wildlife
Nadine Nadow, Esq., Legal Fellow, Earth Law Center

12:30 p.m.

BYOL Social

BYOL (bring-your-own-lunch) social is an interactive presentation about *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*, a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirming California's Proposition 12 on humane treatment of farm animals. This will be an open discussion with **Kathy Hessler**, Assistant Dean for Animal Legal Education and Director of the Animal Legal Education Initiative at GW Law, facilitated by **Missy Lahren**, Chair of the Board, Earth Law Center.

1:45 p.m.

Animal Rights

Around the world, habitat destruction is driving species to extinction while billions of animals are killed for agriculture and other human purposes. These abuses are directly linked to pandemic disease, climate change, and water pollution, among other threats. Advocates have long argued that animals are entitled to legal rights based on arguments including sentience, dignity, and autonomy and that animals should have standing to enforce these rights where necessary. Some courts and legislatures are beginning to agree, but others question whether a legal system built for humans can truly be made to serve animals. This panel discusses some recent developments in animal law in the United States and around the world, with a special focus on Latin America, the intersection of animal rights with the Rights of Nature movement, and the prospects for positive change in U.S. federal policy.

MODERATOR: **Kathy Hessler**, GW Law

PANELISTS: **Mackenzie Landa**, Esq., Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Kevin Schneider, Esq., Counsel, Earth Law Center
Macarena Montes, Visiting Fellow, Brooks McCormick, Jr. Animal Law and Policy Program, Harvard Law School

2:45 p.m.

Closing: The Future of Earth Law: How to Get Involved

The study of earth law is a new and rapidly growing field of environmental protection. Earth law's movements need engagement from innovative current and future lawyers and advocates. This panel will introduce the ways earth law is practiced, discuss pending litigation, and outline mechanisms to lead the way for victorious earth law movements.

Randall S. Abate, GW Law

Tony Zelle, Earth Law Center

Herman Greene, Earth Law Center

3:15 p.m.

Closing Networking

Participants



Randall S. Abate

Randall Abate joined GW Law in July 2022 as the Assistant Dean for Environmental Law Studies. Prior to coming to GW Law, he served from 2018 to 2022 as the inaugural Rehnitz Family and Urban Coast Institute Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy at Monmouth

University in West Long Branch, New Jersey. He also served as the Director of the Institute for Global Understanding at Monmouth (2020–22). Prior to Monmouth, he was a full-time faculty member at six U.S. law schools, most recently as a Professor of Law (2009–18) at Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando, Florida, where he also served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in 2017. Throughout his academic career, Dean Abate has taught courses in domestic and international environmental law, climate change law and justice, ocean and coastal law, constitutional law, torts, and animal law. He also has taught courses and delivered lectures on environmental and animal law topics in more than 25 countries on six continents. Dean Abate is the author or editor of six books, including *What Can Animal Law Learn From Environmental Law?* (ELI Press, 2d ed., 2020) and *Climate Change and the Voiceless: Protecting Future Generations, Wildlife, and Natural Resources* (Cambridge University Press 2019), and nearly 40 law journal articles and book chapters on environmental and animal law topics. Early in his career, he handled environmental law matters at two law firms in Manhattan. He holds a BA from the University of Rochester and a JD and MSL (Environmental Law and Policy) from Vermont Law School.



Rachel Bustamante

Rachel Bustamante is an Ocean Science and Policy Analyst at Earth Law Center, specializing in marine biodiversity conservation science and policy at species and oceanic ecosystem levels. She underscores the pivotal role of values and ethics in shaping conservation efforts, particularly in the context of shark protection and restoration. Her

research has been featured in *PLOS Biology*, and she is the author of the recent publication “Beyond Protection: Recognizing Nature’s Rights to Conserve Sharks” in *Sustainability*. As a Gen Z advocate in marine conservation, she is dedicated to transforming our relationship with marine species and the ocean as a whole to safeguard the planet.



Carl Bruch

Carl Bruch is the Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and the founding President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association (EnPAX). His work focuses on environmental peacebuilding (especially after conflict), environmental governance, adaptation, and environmental emer-

gencies. He has helped dozens of countries—including in many conflict-affected countries throughout Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe—strengthen their environmental laws, institutions, and practices. He has edited more than 10 books and is the author of more than 80 journal articles, book chapters, and reports. He is an adjunct professor at American University School of International Service. He holds a JD from the Northwestern School of Environmental Law of Lewis

and Clark College, an MA in physics from the University of Texas at Austin, and a BS in physics (with additional majors in mathematics and anthropology) from Michigan State University.



Carla Cardenas

Carla Cardenas is an environmental lawyer with more than 20 years’ experience working in Latin America. She has worked in Guyana, Suriname, Ecuador, Perú, and Bolivia, developing projects and conducting research on REDD+, community monitoring, Rights of Nature, and climate justice for institutions that include the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Earth Law Center, Fondo Para La Protección del Agua (FONAG) in Ecuador, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), among others. She is Policy Lead in Peoples and Climate Forest Partnership, FCLP, an initiative with 26 governments committed to expanding and maintaining high-level political leadership on forests, land use, and climate, to work together to implement solutions that reduce forest loss, increase restoration and support sustainable development. She served as the Undersecretary of Natural Heritage for the Ministry of Environment in Ecuador, her country of origin. There, she managed the national protected areas, forests, and seven major stewardship programs, including Socio Bosque, Restauración Forestal, SNAP, and REED+ Ecuador. She currently serves on the International Board of the Forest Stewardship Council as a representative of the environmental south chamber. She earned an LLM at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California, in 2020, a master’s degree in management of natural resources from the Catholic University of Ecuador in 2023, and a master’s degree in bioethics and law at Barcelona University in 2009. She is a lawyer who graduated from Central University in Ecuador and has produced several publications about REDD+, forest governance, and territorial rights for indigenous peoples.



Rachel Conrad

Rachel Conrad is a 4L part-time law student at GW Law. She is an environmental analyst and founder and Co-Director of the Ecuadorian NGO, Proyecto Dulcepamba. She was born and raised in Silver Spring, Maryland, in a family dedicated to environmental activism, environmental law, and water policy. She graduated with honors

from Pitzer College with degrees in environmental analysis and Latin American environment and society in 2013. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she conducted studies on the socio-environmental impacts of the Hidrotambo hydroelectric power plant on campesino and indigenous communities in the Dulcepamba River basin in Ecuador, on a Fulbright research scholarship. Building on her Fulbright research, she then founded the nonprofit Dulcepamba Project, an organization housed in Chillanes County, Ecuador. Dulcepamba Project is dedicated to supporting campesino and indigenous communities in securing their rights and access to water and their participation in decision-making about water resources, as well as to the protection of nature’s rights. The Dulcepamba Project has recently led successful administrative and judicial litigation efforts to hold the Hidrotambo hydroelectric company accountable for significant violations of human and nature’s rights in the 140 Dulcepamba watershed communities.



Orion Cruz

Orion Cruz is a lawyer from the island of Maui, Hawaii. He focuses on international environmental law and advocacy and is particularly interested in issues related to fisheries management, sustainable tourism, and the conservation of wildlife. He has worked with several international environmental organizations in the United States

and Latin America, as well as for the national government of the Republic of Palau in the Pacific region. He currently works as an International Associate with Defenders of Wildlife in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he served as the legal counsel to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism in Palau, where he worked on matters related to protected areas, fisheries management, and tourism. His experience has led him to participate in numerous international meetings, workshops, and conferences related to biodiversity, climate change, fisheries, and trade in endangered species.



Cormac Cullinan

Cormac Cullinan is a practicing environmental attorney, author, speaker, and advocate for the Rights of Nature, based in Cape Town, South Africa. He is a Director of the Wild Law Institute and of the specialist environmental law firm of Cullinan & Associates Inc., and is a founder and Non-Executive Director of the Biodiversity Law

Centre. He has worked in more than 30 countries and has drafted environmental treaties, laws, and policies for governments in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America. His groundbreaking book *Wild Law: A Manifesto for Earth Justice* (2002) pioneered earth jurisprudence and has played a significant role in informing and inspiring the growing Rights of Nature movement. He played a leading role in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth (proclaimed on April 22, 2010 in Bolivia), is a founder and Executive Committee member of the Global Alliance for Rights of Nature, and a judge of the International Rights of Nature Tribunal. He has been included in a book profiling 301 extraordinary environmentalists in history (2008) and in *Warrior Lawyers: From Manila to Manhattan, Attorneys for the Earth* (2016). He is a recipient of the Nick Steele Award for the South African Environmentalist of the Year (2012) and of the Ecologic awards for lifetime achievements (2018) and eco-leadership (2021).



Herman Greene

Herman Greene is the founder and President of the Center for Ecozoic Studies in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, a thought, imagination, dialogue, and action center for an ecological age. He is the Thomas Berry Scholar-in-Residence of the Earth Law Center and is co-author and co-editor of the legal textbook *Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric*

Law—A Guide for Practitioners. He is a retired business lawyer and holds graduate degrees in law, theology, and political science.



Natalia Greene

Natalia Greene is an Ecuadorian activist and political scientist. She promoted the recognition of Rights for Nature in Ecuador's constitution and has worked on the environmental and indigenous aspects of the Yasuní-ITT Initiative to keep oil underground in the Amazon. Ms. Greene

is the former President and current Vice President of the Ecuadorian Coordinator of Organizations for the Defense of Nature and the Environment (CEDENMA). She is also a member of GARN's Executive Committee, Global Coordinator of GARN, and Secretary of the International Rights of Nature Tribunal. An expert of the U.N. Harmony with Nature initiative network since 2016, she holds a BA from Hampshire College in Massachusetts, a master's degree in social sciences from FLACSO-Ecuador, and a master's degree in climate change and sustainable development from UASB-EC.



Kathryn Gwiazdon

Kathryn Gwiazdon, based in Washington, D.C., is an international lawyer who specializes in state responsibility in global governance and the intersectionality of ethics and the environment with all policy issues. She is the Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Ethics and Law; Chair of the Ethics Specialist Group of the Ethics

Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law; and Professor of Climate Law and Policy, International Law and Armed Conflict, and Decolonizing International Law at Northern Illinois University College of Law. Her most recent publication is *The Routledge Handbook on Applied Climate Change Ethics* (2023), exploring the reasons and implications for state inaction on climate change, with 39 chapters and authors from over 15 nations.



Kathy Hessler

Kathy Hessler is the inaugural Assistant Dean for Animal Legal Education at GW Law and Director of the Animal Legal Education Initiative (ALEI), in a program made possible by generous support from ALDF. At GW Law, Dean Hessler also founded the Council on Animal Legal Education and the Aquatic Animal Law Project. She

co-founded and co-directs the Animal Law and Science Project with Dr. Lori Marino. Dean Hessler has been a clinical law professor for 30 years and has been teaching animal law for 22 years. She is the first law professor hired to teach animal law full time. She received a JD from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary and an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center. Dean Hessler helped develop the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis and Clark Law School. For 14 years, she taught there and directed the Animal Law Clinic, which was named one of the top 15 most innovative clinics in 2015. She also created and directed the Aquatic Animal Law Initiative and is the co-founder of World Aquatic Animal Day along with Amy P. Wilson. Dean Hessler is the co-author of *Animal Law in a Nutshell*, *Animal Law—New Perspectives on Teaching Traditional Law*, and the amicus briefs submitted in the *U.S. v. Stevens* and *Justice v. Gwendolyn Vercher* cases. She is working on a new book, *Aquatic Animals: Law, Science and Policy*. Dean Hessler helped found the Animal Law Committee of the Cuyahoga County Bar and was the Chair and a founder of the Animal Law Section and the Balance in Legal Education Section of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS). She was also a Co-Chair of the Clinical Legal Education Section of the AALS, is on the board of the Center for Teaching Peace, and is a fellow at the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.



Missy Lahren

Missy Lahren has worked as an activist and public interest lawyer in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1993. In addition to a JD, she holds an MEd in integral education and a PhD in philosophy and religion, both of which focus on the emerging field of ecozoic education. She has been working to expand enforceable human and ecological rights

since 1997 through board positions at several nonprofits, including Planetary Advocates, Unite for Rights, and the Earth Law Center. Currently, she is Chairman of the Board of the Earth Law Center. Prior projects in education include co-writing and co-producing three documentaries on climate change and renewable energy, including “*The Future of Energy*”; writing an Earth Day curriculum designed to supplement the state of California’s K-12 eco-literacy curriculum; co-creating an earth law course for law students; and hosting a monthly book club on emerging ecological law.



Mackenzie Landa

Mackenzie Landa is a policy advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Prior to joining the Biden administration, Ms. Landa served as Counsel to Senator Cory Booker, working on environment, animal, energy, natural resources, and agriculture issues, and previously

she served as Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, where she led the committee’s work on nature-based climate solutions. She holds an LLM from Vermont Law School in environmental law, a JD from Florida State University College of Law, and a BA from Emory University.



Kelsey Leonard

Dr. Kelsey Leonard is a water scientist and indigenous legal scholar with expertise in transboundary water governance and international water policy-making. Her recent scholarship explores legal personhood for water and her TED Talk “Why Lakes and Rivers Should Have the Same Rights as Humans” has nearly 3 million views. Dr. Leonard

has been instrumental in safeguarding the interests of indigenous nations for environmental planning and builds indigenous science and knowledge into new solutions for water governance and sustainable oceans. At Earth Law Center, her role is the Director of Water Advocacy. Dr. Leonard holds an AB in sociology and anthropology with honors from Harvard University; an MSc in water science, policy and management from the University of Oxford; a JD from Duquesne University; and PhD in political science from McMaster University.



Macarena Montes Franceschini

Macarena Montes Franceschini is an attorney and a researcher with a PhD in law from Universitat Pompeu Fabra. She is a visiting fellow at the Brooks McCormick, Jr. Animal Law and Policy Program at Harvard Law School. She is also a board member of the UPF-Centre for Animal Ethics; editor of the journal *Law, Ethics and Philosophy*; a member of the Editorial Committee of the *Chilean Journal of Animal Law*; and the treasurer of the Great Ape Project (Spain). She

has written articles on nonhuman animal personhood, animal rights, the rights of nature, and a book, *Animal Law in Chile*.



Nadine Nadow

Nadine Nadow is an environmental law and policy consultant and attorney. She has a focus on legal advocacy tools, including federal and state administrative rulemaking, petitions, and legislation. Prior to joining Earth Law Center as a Legal Fellow defending environmental rights, she was a counsel for a private law firm where she conducted

work in water law, acequia defense, real estate law, and land grants. She is a specialized researcher and analytical writer contributing proposed solutions for environmental challenges while focusing on cultural competency and inclusivity. She is the co-author of two articles addressing Rights of Nature protections: *Litigation to Protect the Marine Environment: Parallels and Synergies with Climate Litigation*, 47 *Wm. & Mary Envtl. L. & Pol’y Rev.* 595 (2023) and *Leveraging Earth Law Principles to Protect Ocean Rights: Safeguarding Intrinsic Value and Well-Being for Communities and the Environment*, *Envtl. Law Reporter*, forthcoming Nov. 2023. Ms. Nadow is an environmental law, natural resources law, and energy law LLM candidate at Lewis and Clark Law School. She holds a JD with a certificate in land use law certificate from Vermont Law and Graduate School and a certificate in financing and deploying clean energy from Yale University.



Andrew Niebler

Andrew Niebler is Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Compliance Officer, Karner Blue Capital LLC. He is an attorney known for his ability to handle complex legal issues with precision. Since graduating from law school, he has established himself as a respected attorney in his field. He has developed a reputation for providing exceptional legal representation to individuals,

businesses, and financial institutions. He routinely handles a wide range of legal matters, including general business, corporate governance, commercial contracts, mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures, residential and commercial real estate transactions, leasing, and development, construction, commercial lending, estate planning and succession planning, and probate matters.



Alexandra Pimor

Alexandra Pimor is Director of Nature Governance at the Earth Law Center, where she engages in transforming the global ecology of law and governance into an eco-focused social contract. She works to foster meshworking and collaborative partnerships with earth advocates. In 2022, she became one of the first proxies for Nature on

the Board, serving a one-year tenure cycle at UK eco-beauty company Faith in Nature. She leads the Wildflowers, ELC’s nature governance team of collaborators, on providing nature governance services to organizations and businesses; and on curating a global program for the co-development of nature proxies (the Dandelion Fellowship). Ms. Pimor is an earth lawyer, published legal scholar, social entrepreneur, advanced certified scrum master, agile facilitator, and systems coach. She is also the founder of SoaNoia, a consultancy specializing in conscious governance and leadership, and organizational and systemic transformation. Formerly a university senior law lecturer in Liverpool (United Kingdom), she has over 20 years’ experience in pedagogical engineering and in research and policy analysis, with a focus on public law and human rights (in particular the U.K. and European Union); and on the interrelation between law, governance, spirituality, and

consciousness. She is a Non-Executive Director at RiseUP (Europe) CIC; an executive member of the Spirituality Scholars Network; an executive associate of the Natural Arts Associations (Wales); and a professional volunteer at Notre Affaire a Tous and at *Rights and Humanity* (International).



Noah M. Sachs

Noah M. Sachs is a Professor at the University of Richmond School of Law, where he teaches environmental law and directs the Center for Environmental Studies. His research focuses on how environmental regulations are transforming energy systems and incentivizing sustainable products. He also is the author of several articles

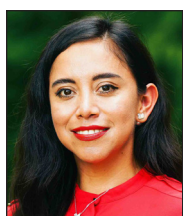
on the Rights of Nature movement and its implications for the courts and democracy. Professor Sachs is widely sought after for his expertise in climate change and regulatory policy. He has testified before the House of Representatives and has consulted with the U.N. Environment Program, the U.S. EPA, and NGOs. His academic work has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian*, NPR, and other media outlets. He is the author of two leading environmental law textbooks, and his articles have been featured in *UCLA Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, and *Columbia Journal of Environmental Law*. Prior to joining the University of Richmond, Professor Sachs was a lecturer at Harvard Law School and held positions with the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He received a JD from Stanford Law School and a master's degree in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He has been awarded the Distinguished Educator Award from the University of Richmond and a Fulbright Fellowship in India to study the challenges of implementing environmental reforms in developing countries. Professor Sachs is a guitarist and songwriter who has recorded two albums available on Spotify.



Kevin Schneider

Kevin Schneider is an attorney admitted to practice in New York and acts as legal counsel to the Earth Law Center. He was on a team that represented the elephant Happy in a historic habeas corpus case before New York's highest state court. For over a decade, Mr. Schneider has worked on extending legal rights to animals and ecosystems.

Among other publications, he wrote the chapter "Nonhuman Rights" for the law textbook *Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law—A Guide for Practitioners* (Wolters Kluwer, 2021). He holds a JD from the Florida State University College of Law and a BA in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.



Diana Ulloa Jiménez

Diana Ulloa Jiménez is a consultant in water management and services. As a Fulbright scholar, she refined her expertise through the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship at Cornell University. In Ecuador, her roles as the Technical Undersecretary, Water National Plan Manager, and Advisor for the Water Secretary left an indelible mark at

the national level. Her contributions include formulating the Water Quality National Strategy, the innovative Green Chapter within the Water National Plan, and a pivotal national policy safeguarding water sources for both human consumption and irrigation. She also

spearheaded the establishment of the inaugural Water Protected Area. Formerly, she served as General Manager of the Water Utility in Santa Cruz, Galapagos Islands. Her transformative leadership led to the historic implementation of AQUARATING, positioning this utility as a pioneer among smaller counterparts. Her expertise has been sought by the Inter-American Development Bank, IUCN, TNC, and various national nonprofits and local governments. Armed with a background in water engineering and a MSc in watershed management from CATIE-Costa Rica, her expertise focuses on public and community-centered water services, innovative nature-based solutions, ecosystem-driven adaptation strategies, hydrological modeling, and conservation of water sources. She co-founded and leads the Water Network Ecuador (Red Agua Ecuador), an initiative that catalyzes collaboration and innovation within the sector. She is also a proud co-founder of Adaptation Latin America, a regional nonprofit.



Grant Wilson

Grant Wilson is the Executive Director of Earth Law Center. He is an expert on the Rights of Nature movement, ecocentric law, and international environmental law. For the last decade, he has defended the rights and interests of nature all over the world, including by co-drafting legal instruments recognizing the Rights of Nature.

He is a co-lead editor of the coursebook *Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law—A Guide for Practitioners* (Wolters Kluwer, 2021). He is also a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law and the UN Harmony with Nature Initiative. He earned a JD with a certificate in environmental and natural resources law from Lewis and Clark Law School.



Mary Christina Wood

Mary Christina Wood is a Philip H. Knight Professor of Law at the University of Oregon and the Faculty Director of the law school's nationally acclaimed Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center. She is an award-winning professor and the co-author of leading textbooks on public trust law and natural resources law. Her book, *Nature's*

Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age (Cambridge University Press), sets forth a new paradigm of global ecological responsibility. She originated the legal approach called Atmospheric Trust Litigation, now being used in cases brought on behalf of youth throughout the world, seeking to hold governments accountable to reduce carbon pollution within their jurisdictions. She has developed a corresponding approach called Atmospheric Recovery Litigation, which would hold fossil fuel companies responsible for funding an Atmospheric Recovery Plan to draw down excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere using natural climate solutions. Professor Wood is a frequent speaker on climate issues and has received national and international attention for her sovereign trust approach to global climate policy.



Tony Zelle

Tony Zelle is an earth lawyer. Following 30 years in private practice in the United States as a business litigator, trying cases and arguing appeals, he led the team that wrote and edited the only comprehensive book on the subject, *Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law—A Guide for Practitioners* (Wolters Kluwer 2021). He has taught Earth law to more

than 1,000 students in more than 40 countries.

About the Symposium

Leading earth law practitioners and academics are exploring the cutting-edge legal movement for restoring a dynamic equilibrium between people and the planet. The Earth Law Symposium emerges from and explores the rights of nature, rights of future generations, rights to a healthy environment, laws prohibiting ecocide, indigenous legal frameworks and rights, non-human animal rights, and more. This free symposium addresses the shortcomings of current laws, regulations, and legal systems and investigates earth law's opportunities, challenges, and case studies to explore new ecocentric governance strategies.

The Earth Law Symposium is co-hosted by the George Washington University Law School (GW Law) and Earth Law Center. Attendees will engage with experts who are part of a global movement to reshape the legal system and create a harmonious relationship with nature. This two-day event includes informative sessions and opportunities for professional development and networking.

GW Law's Environmental and Energy Law Program has been at the forefront of education in the environmental law field for over 50 years. The program is expanding significantly to provide the next generation of environmental and energy lawyers with the tools needed to tackle local, national, and international challenges and developments, including climate change, fisheries depletion, air pollution, water scarcity, and new sources of energy.

Since 2009, Earth Law Center (ELC) has been building the foundation of the earth law movement, advancing the Rights of Nature and other ecocentric law movements in over 20 countries while also training practitioners in these fields. ELC is a global leader with the mission to balance the human-nature relationship and diminish the pace of global warming, biodiversity loss, and the degradation of the global environment.

Earth Law Symposium Planning Committee

Randall S. Abate, GW Law
Claudia B. Delgado, GW Law
Herman Greene, Earth Law Center
Missy Lahren, Earth Law Center
Nadine Nadow, Earth Law Center
Grant Wilson, Earth Law Center
Tony Zelle, Earth Law Center



ENVIRONMENTAL &
ENERGY LAW

