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Florida A&M University
Fourth Annual
Environmental Law and
Justice Symposium

Empowering
Environmental Justice
Communities Locally
and Globally

November 7-8, 2013

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), an 1890 land-grant institution, is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, resolution of complex issues, and the empowerment of citizens and communities.
Symposium Welcome Letter

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

November 7, 2013

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, welcome to Florida A&M University College of Law and the Fourth Annual Environmental Law and Justice Symposium. The two-day symposium features approximately thirty current and future leaders with expertise in environmental law, environmental justice, human rights law, public policy, political science, international finance and development, Native American law and policy, environmental science, and community organizing. Special features of this year’s symposium include a roundtable discussion on whether Title VI is a viable tool to protect environmental justice communities, a book signing session featuring recently published books by some of the speakers and moderators, and a roundtable discussion featuring Florida A&M College of Law students who have had their papers presented at international environmental justice topics published and recognized.

The Fourth Annual Environmental Law and Justice Symposium, “Empowering Environmental Justice Communities Locally and Globally,” is an exemplary outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into and signed on February 16, 2011 between Florida A&M University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Collegiate Environmental Sustainability Initiative. Through this MOU, Florida A&M University and EPA are building a cooperative working relationship in an area of mutual interest including the development of a pool of culturally diverse and highly qualified graduates to address current and future environmental challenges. Areas of cooperation covered by this MOU include FAMU as convener on issues of the environment, including climate change, sustainability, health disparities, environmental justice, and children’s health; and the exploration of the development of a Food Security Initiative (agricultural policy, sustainable agriculture production, local food systems, and public health and socio-economic dimension of sustainable food systems in the United States).

The symposium will engage the general public, faculty and students, environmental policy and decision makers, and community stakeholders in dialogue, activities, and publication of lectures and scholarship addressing challenges that environmental justice communities face and how to empower them with law and policy actions. The symposium sessions include keynote addresses, plenary panels, roundtable panels; roundtable discussion, the “Sustainable U” Student Summit and Poster Competition, and an encore performance by the internationally acclaimed duo, Clinging Paws/Trees.

Thank you for attending the 2013 symposium and we hope that you enjoy your visit to Florida A&M University College of Law and Orlando, Florida.

Prof. Randall S. Abate and Dr. Richard Gragg
Symposium Co-Chairs

Florida A&M University
Fourth Annual Environmental Law and Justice Symposium

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Justine Thompson Cowan is the Director of Legal Resources for Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF), the oldest and largest provider of free legal services for low income residents in Central Florida. Before joining CLSMF, she served as Executive Director of GreenLaw, a nonprofit environmental organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. During her twelve-year tenure at GreenLaw, Ms. Thompson Cowan founded and directed the first environmental justice legal program in Georgia that had many notable successes including closing the largest landfill in Georgia (and 10th largest in the nation) that was located in a predominately poor minority urban neighborhood, and defeating a controversial landfill which would have dumped out-of-state waste in a rural minority community. She was lead attorney in many of GreenLaw’s notable cases including Friends of the Chattahoochee v. Dr. Carol Couch In re Longleaf Energy Station, a 10-year effort that resulted in the defeat of a coal-fired power plant which, if built, would have emitted 500 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over its lifetime. The lower court decision in that case, while later overturned, laid the groundwork for the first limits on carbon dioxide from coal plants and other industrial sources in the nation. Ms. Thompson Cowan has published extensively, including co-authoring Patterns of Pollution: A Report on Demographics and Pollution in Metro Atlanta (2012) and the award-winning citizens guide entitled Putting the Law to Work in Our Community: A Citizen’s Guide to Environmental Protection and Justice in Georgia. She holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley and a J.D. with honors from the University of Florida College of Law. Before joining GreenLaw, she clerked for United States District Court Judge Robert L. Echols of the Middle District of Tennessee.

Randall S. Abate is a Professor of Law, Director of the Center for International Law and Justice, and Project Director of the Environment, Development & Justice Program at Florida A&M University College of Law. He teaches Environmental and Natural Resources Law, Environmental Law and Policy, International Environmental Law, Environmental Justice, and Constitutional Law. He has taught international and comparative environmental law courses in study abroad programs in Nairobi, Vancouver, Northern India, Buenos Aires, and the Cayman Islands. Professor Abate has published more than twenty law review articles and has presented widely on environmental law topics, with a recent emphasis on climate change law and policy. He is a faculty advisor for a variety of student activities at the College of Law including the FAMU Law Review, the NOAA-ESCC Fellows in Ocean and Coastal Law and Policy, the Environmental Law Society, and the International Law Students Association. He is the co-editor (with Professor Elizabeth Kronk of the University of Kansas School of Law) of CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: THE SEARCH FOR LEGAL REMEDIES (Edward Elgar Publishing 2013). In April 2013, Professor Abate taught a climate change law and justice course in Odessa, Ukraine on a Fulbright Specialists grant. Early in his career, he handled environmental law matters at two law firms in Manhattan. He holds a B.A. from the University of Rochester and a J.D. and M.S.E.L. (Environmental Law and Policy) from Vermont Law School.

Richard D. Schulterbrandt Gragg, III, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Policy in the School of the Environment at Florida A&M University and同样academic interest areas include environmental health disparities; environmental equity; environmental science; and sustainability. His current research interests include climate change communication, community engagement, and sustainable development. He is published in Environmental Justice; Health Affairs; Journal of Environmental Health; International Journal of Public Administration; and co-editor of a book on sustainability in higher education. Dr. Gragg received his B.S. degree (1981), M.S. degree (1986), and Ph.D. degree (1994) in pharmaceutical sciences from the Florida A&M University.

Moderators

John Warford, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Florida A&M University - Department of History and Political Sciences. He previously served as a graduate professor at FAMU’s School of Business in the Management Department. He has taught a range of subjects related to his interests in World Resources, World Cultures, Conservation, and Sustainable Living Spaces. He is well respected for his career-long commitment to community engagement, youth development, and character education. He earned a B.A. in English and Black Studies from Washington University in St. Louis and attended Sussex University - England as an exchange student in the School of Cultural and Community Studies. Dr. Warford completed his M.A. coursework in International Studies at Florida International University and earned a Ph.D. in Economic Geography from the University of Florida, as a McKnight Fellow. His current research interests include Climate Change Communication, Strategic, Community Sustainability, and HBCU Consortium Development.

Richard D. Schulterbrandt Gragg, III, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Policy in the School of the Environment at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental toxicology, environmental ethics, environmental health, and environmental justice and directs undergraduate and graduate students in thesis and dissertation research. His scholarship, research, and professional interests include environmental health disparities, environmental equity, and justice, and environmental science. He is published in Environmental Justice; Health Affairs; International Journal of Public Administration; and co-editor of Environmental Justice Reader: A Survey and Review of Critical Issues in Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Communities in the Twenty-First Century (Linus Publications 2012). He is a contributing author in Sustainability in Higher Education: Stories and Strategies for Transformation (MIT Press 2013). He is the Chair of the FAMU Environment and Sustainability Council and member of the EPA Science Advisory Board, Environmental Justice Technical Guidance Review Panel. He is the founding director of the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice (1998-2011) and a former member of the Audubon of Florida Board of Directors, the Florida Environmental Regulations Commission, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and Health and Research Subcommittees. Dr. Gragg is also President and CEO of the Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Dr. Gragg received his B.S. degree (1981), M.S. degree (1986), and Ph.D. degree (1994) in pharmaceutical sciences from the Florida A&M University.

Symposium Co-Chairs
Fourth Annual Environmental Law and Justice Symposium
Empowering Environmental Justice Communities Locally and Globally
Florida A&M University College of Law
Thursday and Friday, November 7-8, 2013

Co-Sponsored by Florida A&M University's Environment, Development, and Justice Program in the Center for International Law and Justice at the College of Law and the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice at the School of the Environment

Agenda: Thursday, Nov. 7 - FAMU College of Law, Room 240

3:30-5:00 Roundtable Discussion of Published and Recognized FAMU Student Papers on Domestic and International Environmental Justice Issues
Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Florida A&M College of Law
Student Panelists:
Domestic: Cameryn Rivera, Sabrina Collins, Tia Crosby
International: Annie Wilkinson, Michael Nichola, Stacy Fallon

5:00-5:30 Networking Break

5:30 Welcoming Remarks: LeRoy Pernell, Dean, Florida A&M College of Law
Randall S. Abate, Professor of Law, Florida A&M College of Law

5:45 Introduction of Opening Keynote Speaker: Carlton Huntley

5:50-6:30 Opening Keynote Speaker: Mustafa Ali, Associate Director for Communication and Stakeholder Involvement, EPA Office of Environmental Justice

Agenda: Friday, Nov. 8 - FAMU College of Law, Room 240

8:00-8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30-8:50 Welcome and Introductory Remarks
LeRoy Pernell, Dean, Florida A&M College of Law
Randall S. Abate, Professor of Law, Florida A&M College of Law
Dr. Richard Gragg, Associate Professor, Florida A&M School of the Environment
Vanessa Calcano-Thomas, Solicitations Co-Editor, Symposium Issue of Florida A&M Law Review

8:50 Introduction of Breakfast Keynote Speaker: Cameryn Rivera, President, Environmental Law Society

8:55-9:30 Breakfast Keynote Speaker
Thomas Brennan, Deputy Director, Science Advisory Board, EPA Headquarters

9:30-10:45 Opening Plenary Panel: Environmental Justice Challenges in Indigenous Communities
Moderator: Prof. Elizabeth Kronk Warner, University of Kansas School of Law
Panelists:
Dr. Elizabeth Kronk Warner, Brown University
Dr. Peter Jacques, University of Central Florida
Dr. Beth Rose Middleton, University of California, Davis

10:45-11:00 Networking Break

Elizabeth Kronk Warner joined the University of Kansas (KU) School of Law faculty in June 2012. Professor Kronk Warner teaches in the areas of property, federal Indian law, and tribal law. In addition to teaching, she also directs the KU Tribal Law and Government Center. Her research focuses on the intersection of environmental and natural resource law with Indian law. She is the author of numerous law journal articles examining environmental development in Indian country, such as energy development and the impacts of climate change. She is a co-author of the case book, NATIVE AMERICAN NATURAL RESOURCES AND CO-EDITOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: THE SEARCH FOR LEGAL REMEDIES. Prior to her arrival at KU, Kronk Warner served on the law faculties at Texas Tech University and the University of Montana. In 2010, she was selected to serve as an Environmental Justice Young Fellow through the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and U.S.-China Partnership for Environmental Law at Vermont Law School. In addition to teaching, Kronk Warner serves as an appellate judge for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Court of Appeals in Michigan. Before entering academia, Kronk Warner practiced environmental, Indian, and energy law as an associate in the Washington, D.C., offices of Latham & Watkins LLP and Troutman Sanders LLP. Kronk Warner previously served as chair of the Federal Bar Association Indian Law Section and was elected to the Association’s national board of directors in 2011. She received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and a B.S. from Cornell University. Kronk Warner is a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Jeremy Levitt, J.D., Ph.D., is a public international lawyer and political scientist with expertise in the law of the use of force, human rights law, African politics, democratization, state dynamics, and regional collective security. Levitt is the author or editor of four books and numerous law review articles. Prior to entering law teaching, he served as Special Assistant to the Managing Director for Global Human and Social Development at the World Bank Group. He was recently appointed as senior member of the International Technical Assistance Committee (ITAC) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the Republic of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa’s first democratically-elected female head of state. ITAC provides technical legal assistance to, and legal oversight of, TRC operations. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Cambridge’s St. John’s College; a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and B.A. in Political Science from Arizona State University.
Jessica Scott is an attorney at the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of General Counsel. She provides legal advice under the Clean Air Act and many of the federal statutes, Executive Orders, and policies that affect all of EPA’s programs, including environmental justice, Indian law, and the Migrant Bird Treaty Act. She also provides legal counsel on international environmental law, including trade and environment, US–Canada transboundary issues, and international environmental justice. Ms. Scott’s environmental justice counseling benefits some of the nation’s most under-served and under-represented populations, including poor, minority, and tribal communities. She has provided critical input to implement EPA’s seminal EJ in Rulemaking Guidance and on EPA’s emerging national mapping tool, EJSCREEN, to help identify areas of potential environmental justice concern. She also works to help tribes assume responsibility to administer EPA environmental programs in Indian country, to protect the health of indigenous subsistence fishers in the context of EPA oversight of state water quality standards, and to promote environmental justice principles on behalf of tribal members while honoring the sovereignty of tribal governments. Ms. Scott holds a B.S. Cum laude from Georgetown School of Foreign Service and a J.D., magna cum laude, from Vermont Law School. In November and December of 2011, she participated in the National Committee on U.S–China Relations’ Environmental Law Professionals Exchange and served as a Fellow at the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative in Beijing. She is a recipient of the 2013 American Bar Association’s Distinguished Environmental Advocates Award. Ms. Scott’s article, “Cleaning up the Dragon’s Fountain: Lessons from the First Public Interest Law Suit Brought by a Grassroots NGO in China,” will be published in the Fall 2013 issue of the George Washington International Law Review.

Ms. Scott is sponsored by:

Gladys Vega is Executive Director of the Chelsea Collaborative, an organization whose mission is to empower the people of Chelsea, Massachusetts, and enhance the social, economic, and environmental health of Chelsea. The Collaborative is the premier organization fighting for civil rights and human rights in Chelsea. Since joining the Collaborative staff in 1990, Ms. Vega has been the architect in developing many community organizing projects. She was a founder of the Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee, a project whose mission is to protect and expand open space and improve Chelsea’s park and the environment. She also has played leadership roles in organizing for immigrants’ rights, welfare rights, multicultural and anti-racism programs, and in numerous grassroots campaigns. Ms. Vega has been a guest speaker at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University School of Social Work, Boston University Law School, University of Massachusetts, Boston; the Salem State School of Social Work; and numerous national conferences. In 2007 and 2008, she was chosen by the Boston Globe and a group of Spanish newspapers as one of the “Top 100 Most Influential Leaders in Massachusetts.” The Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the National Football League also selected her to receive the 2013 NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award at the New England Patriots game on September 22, 2013. In addition, Ms. Vega was selected from among hundreds of executive directors of area nonprofits to become one of twelve Barr Foundation Fellows. This recognition involved a three-month sabbatical, group travel to the global south, and the opportunity to join a remarkably diverse network of leaders. Ms. Vega was born in Puerto Rico and came to Chelsea with her family at the age of nine. She lives in Chelsea with son, Jerry, and her daughter, Melinda.
Mary Christina Wood is the Philip H. Knight Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the nationally acclaimed Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program at the University of Oregon School of Law. She founded the program, which has been ranked as one of the top ten in the country for the past several years. Professor Wood has taught environmental law for over 20 years across the subjects of property, natural resources law, public trust law, federal Indian law, public lands law, wildlife law, and hazardous waste law. She serves as Faculty Leader of the Program’s Conservation Trust Project, Sustainable Land Use Project, Native Environmental Sovereignty Project, and Food Resilience Project, all designed to explore tangible, cutting-edge policy initiatives across various jurisdictions.

After teaching for years, Professor Wood became increasingly aware of the failures of the environmental statutes and the growing ecological crisis across the planet. Finding the root causes of such failure in the politicization of agencies, she embarked on research that would provide a more effective paradigm for government behavior. She became the country’s leading expert on the Indian trust doctrine, a federal obligation owed to native nations to protect their lands and resources. She then turned her focus to reinvigorate an ancient doctrine known as the public trust doctrine. That doctrine, which exists in every jurisdiction of the United States and in several other nations as well, posits government trustees as stewards of natural resources with strict fiduciary duties owed to both present and future generations. Professor Wood established the first-ever course in public trust law a course now taught in other schools as well. In August, 2013, she and Professor Michael Blumm published a pioneering textbook in public trust law. Wood is also the co-author of a leading textbook on natural resources law and has authored numerous book chapters and law review articles on wildlife law, natural resources law, and federal Indian law.

Professor Wood’s new book, Nature’s Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age, defines the frontiers of public trust law and maps out a full paradigm shift for the way in which government agencies manage public resources. The book reveals the dysfunction of current statutory law and calls upon citizens, government employees, legislators, and judges to protect natural inheritance rightfully belonging to future generations as part of the public trust. Applying her public trust scholarship to the climate crisis, Professor Wood originated an approach called Atmospheric Trust Litigation (ATL), which is designed to hold governments worldwide accountable for controlling carbon pollution within their jurisdictions. In conjunction with a climate prescription developed by Dr. James Hansen (former head of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies) and other renowned scientists, her research is being used in lawsuits and petitions brought on behalf of children and youth throughout the United States and in other countries. These lawsuits, which seek judicial decrees enforcing carbon reduction, represent a “micro” approach to climate crisis calibrated to planetary requirements for climate equilibrium. Professor Wood speaks widely on issues of climate crisis and other environmental matters, and her path-breaking work has been highlighted in the Huffington Post, Utne Reader, The Atlantic, and many other venues.

Wood is a graduate of Stanford Law School and a former judicial clerk for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is an award-winning teacher and a recipient of the University of Oregon’s highest teaching award (the Erstel Award for Distinguished Teaching). She lives in Eugene, Oregon with her family and is engaged in local food and sustainability initiatives.

Brent Newell joined the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment in 1998 as a legal intern after his first year at the University of Oregon School of Law. After graduating in 2000, Brent joined CRPE as an Equal Justice Fellow in CRPE’s Delano office and implemented a project to help rural communities protect themselves from unregulated factory farm air pollution. By the end of 2003, Brent had founded the San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Project and, working with CRPE community organizers, our clients, and allies, the Project successfully ended California’s agricultural exemption for air pollution, subjecting factory farms and other major agricultural sources to the same stringent requirements applicable to other major pollutants. Brent’s work as the Director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Project earned him the Breathe California Clean Air Award for Leadership in 2008, the same year he was named CRPE’s Legal Director. More recently, Brent has focused on CRPE’s climate justice work, including Native Village of Kivalina v. Exxonmobil, and CRPE’s effort to compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect communities of color from environmental racism and enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964, something EPA has shamefully failed to do throughout its 43-year history. A lifelong Californian, Brent graduated from Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa and earned a degree in Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1992. Brent lives in Sonoma County where he grew up.

Becky Norton Dunlop has served as a vice president at The Heritage Foundation, a conservative free market research and education think tank based in Washington, D.C., since 1998. From 1994-1998, she was Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Governor’s cabinet. Ms. Dunlop served as Special Assistant and Deputy Assistant to the President in President Ronald Reagan’s White House. She was Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the U.S. Department of the Interior and Deputy Undersecretary of the Department in 1987-89, and also worked on the staff of the Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice in 1985-87. She is the author of Clearing the Air, which discusses using free market principles to guide natural resource, energy and environmental policy during her tenure in Virginia. She is one of the authors of Environmental Conservation: Eight Principles of the American Conservation Ethic. Ms. Dunlop speaks and writes about energy and natural resource policy focusing on free market principles.

Ms. Dunlop is sponsored by:
Beth Rose Middleton, Ph.D. (Afro-Caribbean, Eastern European), is Assistant Professor of Native American Studies at UC Davis. She was born and raised in the rural Sierra Nevada foothills of central California. Dr. Middleton’s research centers on Native environmental policy and Native activism for site protection using conservation tools. Her broader research interests include intergenerational trauma and healing, rural environmental justice, Afro-indigeneity, qualitative GIS, and multi-cultural dimensions of conservation, land use, and planning. She has received research support from the National Science Foundation, the UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender, the UC Office of the President, the Community Forestry and Environmental Research Partnerships program, the Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California, and the UC Humanities Research Initiative. Dr. Middleton has published on Native economic development, political ecology and healing, mapping allotment lands, and using environmental laws for indigenous rights. Her book on Native land trusts, Trust in the Land: New Directions in Tribal Conservation, was published in 2011 by University of Arizona Press. In 2009, Dr. Middleton was awarded the Eric Wolf Prize by the Political Ecology Society; in 2012 she received the Environmental Leadership Award from Ecology Law Quarterly (UC Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law); and in 2013 she was offered the Hellman Fellowship, which supports innovative research by junior faculty. Dr. Middleton received her B.A. in Nature and Culture from UC Davis, and her Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from UC Berkeley. She collaborates with organizations including the Maicu Summit Consortium and the Roundhouse Council Indian Education Center, and provides volunteer staff support for an emerging alliance of Native Land Trusts.

Opening Keynote

Mustafa Santiago Ali has been a national speaker, trainer, facilitator and commentator on social justice issues for 20 years with a specific focus on the issue of environmental justice and sustainability for the past 19 years. During that time, Mr. Ali has delivered more than 1,000 presentations, including facilitations and trainings. He has also worked with over 500 communities on both the domestic and international fronts to secure environmental, health, and economic justice.

He currently serves as an Associate Director in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Environmental Justice where he leads the Communication and Stakeholder Involvement (CSI) team. In 2012, Mr. Ali created and produced the Environmental Justice in Action blog that currently has over 100,000 followers. The blog highlights innovative actions to address environmental justice, sustainability, and climate change issues. Mr. Ali served as the environmental justice lead in 2010 for the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Additionally, in 2009, he served as the Designated Federal Official for the Workgroup on Natiologically Consistent EJ Screening Approaches of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), a federal advisory committee to the U.S. EPA.

Mr. Ali was a Brookings Institution Congressional Fellow in the Office of Congressman John Conyers during fiscal year 2007-08. His portfolio as a Legislative Assistant focused on Foreign Policy in Africa and South America; Homeland Security; Health Care; Veterans Affairs; Appropriations; and Environmental Justice. In 2004, he was selected as the National Enforcement Training Institute, “Trainer of the Year.” During that time, he led the effort to train approximately 4,000 stakeholders across the country in “The Fundamentals of Environmental Justice Workshop.”

Mr. Ali is a former instructor at West Virginia University and Stanford University in Washington. He has delivered guest lectures at universities and colleges across the country including Yale University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Spelman College, Albany Law School, and Howard University School of Law. In addition to lecturing at academic institutions, Mr. Ali has presented on Capitol Hill and for the White House Office of Public Engagement.

Alan Miller is Principal Climate Change Specialist in the Climate Business Department at the International Finance Corporation, the private sector lending arm of the World Bank Group. In that position he contributes to climate change policies and strategy development for the World Bank Group. Prior to joining the IFC in October 2003, he was Climate Change manager at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat; created and directed the Center for Global Change at the University of Maryland (1999-96); and served on the staffs of the World Resources Institute and Natural Resources Defense Council. He is a widely published author and contributor of chapters in a leading environmental law textbook and a book on climate change and the law. He has taught courses at several universities including the University of Michigan and the Maryland, Vermont, and Duke schools of law. His degrees are from Cornell University (A.B., Government 1971) and University of Michigan (J.D. and M.P.P. 1974). He was a Fulbright Scholar in Australia (1977) and Japan (1987).
**Thomas Brennan** is the Deputy Director of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office. Mr. Brennan has twenty-three years of professional experience working in the field of risk policy, risk assessment, and environmental science. He began his career working for consulting firms in the Washington, D.C. area. His consulting work supported risk assessment activities for U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For the past sixteen years, Mr. Brennan has been working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he has held several positions including Risk Assessor, Communications Officer; Team Leader; Branch Chief, and now Deputy Director. In addition to his work at the EPA, Mr. Brennan is also an Adjunct Professor in the Biology Department of Montgomery College where he teaches Environmental Science. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Ecology from Ohio University.

As Deputy Director of the SAB Staff Office, Mr. Brennan manages the Science Advisory Board’s review of the quality and relevance of the scientific and technical information used or proposed as the basis for Agency regulation on a wide variety of topics. He is involved with selecting nationally recognized experts from numerous scientific and technical backgrounds that can provide expert advice and input on topics of national importance in the arenas of public health and environmental protection. Selecting panels with scientific expertise and diversity of perspectives around issues of importance to the EPA and the nation is critical to the success of the SAB activities and ultimately EPA decisions. He is also involved in managing the publicly transparent process by which the SAB conducts its reviews and develops its scientific positions and advice.

As an example of one such project, Mr. Brennan is currently managing the SAB review of the “Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis.” This draft Guidance was developed by the EPA Office of Policy in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Justice. The draft Guidance will provide Agency staff with input on how to assess disproportionate environmental and public health impacts of proposed rules and actions on minority, low income, and indigenous populations in a variety of regulatory contexts.

**Derrick Howard** is an Associate Professor of Law at Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia. He received his B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. After graduating from law school, Professor Howard worked for the internationally regarded firm of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP in Pittsburgh, PA. He practiced for 11 years in environmental insurance coverage litigation and class action litigation before forming and becoming a partner of Howard & Hosay Law Group, PC in Philadelphia, PA. While practicing in the latter setting for another seven years, Professor Howard also taught in the Community College of Philadelphia’s Paralegal Studies Program. In 2008, Professor Howard joined the faculty of Appalachian School of Law (ASL). During his tenure at ASL, Professor Howard has taught several doctrinal courses including Property I and II; Evidence; a practicum in Real Estate Transactions; a seminar on Natural Resource Law; and a practicum in Law Office Management. He has also designed and implemented the school’s first distance learning course and has served as a faculty advisor to several school organizations including the Black Law Student’s Association, Phi Alpha Delta, Outlaw the rugby team, the basketball team, and mock trial competitors. In July 2011, Professor Howard was appointed the Director of ASL’s Externship Program. Professor Howard’s recent scholarship on environmental justice issues includes Hydraulic Fracturing in the Appalachia Basin: Incorporating Environmental Justice to Regulate Natural Resource Exploration; A Modest Proposal: An Emerging Dialogue for Implementing the Human Right to Water; and The Appearance of Solidarity: Legal Implementation of the Human Right to Water in the United States.

Professor Howard is sponsored by:

**Panelists cont.**

**Peter J. Jacques, Ph.D.** is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Florida where he teaches environmental politics and sustainability. He is co-author, with Sharon Ridgeway, of The Power of the Talking Stick: Indigenous Politics and the World Ecological Crisis (Paradigm Press 2013), as well as the forthcoming primer, Sustainability: The Basics (Routledge). In addition to his work on indigenous peoples and the environment, Dr. Jacques focuses on two central areas: the politics of climate denial and the study of integrated social-marine systems, or “social oceanography.” He has recently published with Riley Dunlap—first through American Behavioral Scientist and then through the Yale Forum on Climate and the Media—an analysis of 108 English language books that reject mainstream climate science, and has been invited to present this work at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in November 2013. Dr. Jacques is also the lead author of a 2008 study on environmental skepticism that is the most read article in the top-rated Environmental Politics and is part of a working group on food security for the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS), and has two books on the topic. Dr. Jacques is also known for work in interdisciplinary ocean studies, where he has published in Progress in Oceanography, part of a working group on food security for the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS), and has two books on the topic. Dr. Jacques is also the Managing Executive Editor for the flagship journal of AESS, the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences. He holds a B.A. from Montana State University and M.P.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Northern Arizona University.
Alyson Finley is a human rights advocate and attorney based in San Francisco. She is the Associate Director of Accountability Counsel, a legal organization focused on holding corporate and institutional actors accountable for environmental and human rights violations. Since joining Accountability Counsel, Ms. Finley has worked with communities in Liberia, Russia, and Mali that were harmed by projects financed by the World Bank, OPIC, and global financial institutions. Before joining Accountability Counsel, she was an Associate at the New York office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, where she practiced in the Global Investigations and White Collar Litigation groups. Ms. Finley has also worked with Lawyers Without Borders in Kenya, serving as a faculty member for the organization’s “Support Through Trial Advocacy Training Program” in Nairobi. She received her J.D. from Cornell Law School, where she received the CALI Award for Appellate Advocacy, and received dual B.A. degrees from the University of Utah, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Finley is admitted to practice law in the state of New York and before the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Elizabeth Hoover, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University where she teaches courses on environmental health and justice in Native communities, indigenous food movements, Native American museology, and community engaged research. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology at Brown University, with a focus on environmental and medical Anthropology as it applies to Native American communities responding to environmental contamination. Dr. Hoover is also co-leader of the Community Engagement Core of a Superfund Research Program at Brown, and in this capacity assists Native American and Environmental Justice community organizations in Rhode Island in conducting research and programming around environmental education. Dr. Hoover is also the faculty advisor for the student group, Native Americans at Brown, and a board member of the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island. Dr. Hoover has spent the past several years working with Akwesasne Mohawk community members on projects relating to the assessment of environmental health research, as well as subsistence revival and community gardening efforts. She has published articles about environmental reproductive justice in Native American communities, the cultural impact of fish advisories on Native communities, and health social movements.

Climbing PoeTree is the combined force of two boundary-breaking soul sisters who have sharpened their art as a tool for popular education, community organizing and personal transformation. Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman interweave spoken word, hip hop, and award-winning multimedia theater to expose injustice, channel hope into vision, and make a better future visible, immediate, and irresistible.

In 15 self-organized tours over the past 10 years, Climbing PoeTree has blazed stages in more than 70 cities across the US, and abroad from the UK to South Africa, and Mexico to Cuba. Their soul-stirring performances have been featured alongside visionary leaders and artists such as Alicia Keys, Erykah Badu, Amiri Baraka, Cornel West, Angela Davis, Sonia Sanchez, Alice Walker, Danny Glover; The Last Poets, and Dead Prez.

Alixa and Naima’s critical voices in response to the environmental crisis of our time have earned them the honor of performing alongside legendary environmental activists such as Vandana Shiva (Navdanya), Dolores Huerta (co-founder: United Farm Workers), and Mejora Carter (Sustainable South Bronx). From the “Public Interest Environmental Law Conference” in Miami, FL, to “Three Degrees The Law of Climate Change and Human Rights Conference” in Seattle, WA, to San Francisco’s “Green Fest,” Alixa and Naima have inspired thousands of change agents with their compelling analysis of environmental justice. Climbing PoeTree has supported youth environmental movements through “Be the Change Youth Environmental Leadership Training” in Detroit, MI and “The NYC Climate Justice Youth Summit” in New York, NY, and was recently featured on TED Talks in Vermont, for their work connecting communities through organizing and artistry.

Climbing PoeTree’s award-winning production, Hurricane Season: The Hidden Messages in Water, interweaves spoken word poetry, shadow art, dance, film, and animation to examine the unnatural disasters facing humanity on a daily basis through the kaleidoscope of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. Through a massive orchestration that mobilized inter-generational, multi-racial, and cross-class communities worldwide, Climbing PoeTree organized an eco-justice tour that obliterated the boundaries between performance and activism. Alixa and Naima traveled over 11,000 miles with an all-women crew in a bus converted to run on recycled vegetable oil, delivering Hurricane Season to thousands of people in more than 50 communities nationwide, and featured close to 200 grassroots organizations to garner support for their initiatives and give audience members access into local movements.

Since 2010, Climbing PoeTree has been working closely with a dynamic team of innovative educators to translate Hurricane Season into a year-long multimedia social justice curriculum. The Hurricane Season Curriculum is presently being piloted at Susquehanna University and Global Citizenship Experience, a pioneering high school in Chicago, and will soon be an invaluable teaching tool in learning environments nationwide. Through the curriculum, Alixa and Naima are committed to employing the power of art to build critical consciousness and build new leadership essential for fundamental social change.
**Panelists**

**Naysa Ahuja** is an environmental lawyer from India who is currently working at World Resources Institute (WRI) - The Access Initiative and WRI Brazil. She specializes in community resource management, indigenous community inclusion, and gender mainstreaming in environmental policy analysis. Ms. Ahuja's work for WRI includes reviewing administrative codes of fifteen countries to identify administrative fairness principles in environmental decision making under the precepts of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. These annotated principles will be presented as a legislative guidebook for achieving environmental justice in many countries. As a practicing lawyer in New Delhi, Ms. Ahuja worked for India's first environmental law firm, Enviro Legal Defence Firm, where she worked on forest rights of communities, biodiversity, joint forest management, and land rights. She argued toxic tort and forest land dispute cases before the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court of India. Ms. Ahuja headed a UNDP-funded “Young Lawyers for Justice Fellowship” project in the state of Chhattisgarh. Driven to engage communities in resource management, she founded a social enterprise called “Trail Tales Outdoors” in the Himalayas to generate sustainable livelihood and environmental awareness opportunities for local communities through responsible tourism. Ms. Ahuja received an LL.M. in Environmental Law from the George Washington University Law School where she was awarded the Thomas Buergenthal Scholarship. She also holds degrees in law and English literature from University of Delhi. Ms. Ahuja has published papers and reports on joint forest management regimes, tribal self-governance, and feminist jurisprudence.

Ms. Ahuja is sponsored by:

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**Shalanda H. Baker** is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of San Francisco School of Law where she teaches corporate law and courses in international development and international economic law. Her research explores issues at the intersection of large energy and infrastructure project development; indigenous rights; and the environment. She served as an Air Force officer prior to her honorable discharge under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, and became a vocal advocate for repeal of the policy. Following her graduation from law school, Professor Baker clerked for Justice Roderick Ireland of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. She also worked as a corporate and project finance associate for Bingham McCutchen LLP, initially in Boston and later in Japan. Professor Baker completed a William H. Hastie Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she received her LL.M. degree. She holds a B.A. and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.

**Jeannie Economos** is the Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Project Coordinator for the Farmworker Association of Florida. Ms. Economos has worked for over 20 years on issues of the environment, environmental justice, indigenous and immigrants’ rights, labor, peace, and social justice. From 1996-2001, she worked for the Farmworker Association of Florida as the Lake Apopka Project Coordinator, addressing the issues of job loss, displacement, and health problems of the farmworkers who worked on the farm lands on Lake Apopka prior to the closing of the farms in 1998. From 2007 until the present, she has been the coordinator of the pesticide health and safety program of the organization, which includes annually training over 500 farmworkers in Florida on their rights and protections in the workplace and how to protect themselves and their families from pesticide exposure. She is also engaged in local, state, national, and international coalitions and collaborations related to farmworker rights and health and safety, pesticide reduction, sustainable agriculture, and food sovereignty. Ms. Economos is currently co-coordinator of the Lake Apopka Farmworkers’ Memorial Quilt Project, the purpose of which is to raise awareness about the impacts of pesticides on the former farmworkers on Lake Apopka.

**Panelists cont.**

**Josephine M. Balzac** is an associate attorney at Wieland, Hilado & DeLattre, P.A., an AV rated trial litigation firm in Orlando, Florida. She graduated magna cum laude as valedictorian from the Florida A&M University College of Law in 2011 and received the prestigious Holland & Knight Scholarship. Ms. Balzac served as a staff member on Law Review and as Chair of the Student Planning Committee for the Environmental Law and Justice Symposium. She also won the Third Best Oralist award at the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition in 2011, where her team reached the semi-finals. Ms. Balzac earned an LL.M. in International Environmental Law from The George Washington University Law School, where she worked as a Randolph C. Shaw Research Fellow for the Associate Dean of Environmental Studies. While obtaining her LL.M., Ms. Balzac interned at the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery in the International Transportation Branch. Upon returning to Orlando, Ms. Balzac worked for a food safety regulatory consulting group assisting with legal and regulatory issues related to food, dietary supplements, labels, and claims. Ms. Balzac’s article, “CAFTA-DR’s Citizen Submission Process: Is It Protecting the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and Promoting the Three Pillars of Sustainable Development?” will be published in the Fall 2013 issue of the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law International Law Review. Outside of the office, Ms. Balzac promotes awareness by speaking on environmental, conservation, and food law issues as well as serving as the Fundraising Chair of the Sierra Club in 2012-2013 and on the Board of Directors of EarthWeb Foundation.

**Josephine M. Balzac** is an associate attorney at Wieland, Hilado & DeLattre, P.A., an AV rated trial litigation firm in Orlando, Florida. She graduated magna cum laude as valedictorian from the Florida A&M University College of Law in 2011 and received the prestigious Holland & Knight Scholarship. Ms. Balzac served as a staff member on Law Review and as Chair of the Student Planning Committee for the Environmental Law and Justice Symposium. She also won the Third Best Oralist award at the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition in 2011, where her team reached the semi-finals. Ms. Balzac earned an LL.M. in International Environmental Law from The George Washington University Law School, where she worked as a Randolph C. Shaw Research Fellow for the Associate Dean of Environmental Studies. While obtaining her LL.M., Ms. Balzac interned at the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery in the International Transportation Branch. Upon returning to Orlando, Ms. Balzac worked for a food safety regulatory consulting group assisting with legal and regulatory issues related to food, dietary supplements, labels, and claims. Ms. Balzac’s article, “CAFTA-DR’s Citizen Submission Process: Is It Protecting the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and Promoting the Three Pillars of Sustainable Development?” will be published in the Fall 2013 issue of the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law International Law Review. Outside of the office, Ms. Balzac promotes awareness by speaking on environmental, conservation, and food law issues as well as serving as the Fundraising Chair of the Sierra Club in 2012-2013 and on the Board of Directors of EarthWeb Foundation.