



A CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

April 1, 2011

Please note: Conference agenda subject to change.

- 10.00-11.00 **Registration**
- 11.00-11.10 **Welcome**
- 11.10-11.35 **Keynote Speech #1. The Practical Need to Turn Up the Volume on the Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change with *Donald Brown***, Associate Professor of Environmental Ethics, Science, and Law, and Director, Collaborative Program on Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change, Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State University
Co-sponsored by the UCI Undergraduate Environmental Law Society
- Keynote Synopsis**
In this speech, Professor Brown will explain why climate change must be understood as raising several different civilization challenging ethical issues. Yet, a review of how this problem has been debated in the United States for over thirty years reveals that arguments against and in support of climate change policy proposals have for the most part ignored the practical consequences that are entailed by understanding the ethical dimensions of climate change. That is arguments in opposition to and in support of climate change policies have almost exclusively focused on short-term economic consequences for the United States of policy proposals or unresolved scientific questions about climate change impacts, a framing of questions about the desirability of climate change policies exclusively as a matter of self-interest rather than as responses to duties, responsibilities, and obligations to those who are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. This talk will identify the practical consequences for climate change policy formation of accepting climate change as a moral, ethical, and human rights matter and end with arguments about the practical importance of turning up the volume on the ethical and moral dimensions of climate change.
- 11.35-12.00 **Keynote Speech #2. [TBA]**
Served with Lunch
Boxed lunches featuring organic and local produce served in the Courtyard.
- 12.00-1.20 **Panel 1. Climate Change Migration and Indigenous Rights**
Co-sponsored by the underRepresented Student Alliance
- Facilitated by **Richard Matthew**, Associate Professor of International and Environmental Politics, Schools of Social Ecology and Social Science, University of California, Irvine, and founding Director of the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs
 - Panelists include:

- **Maxine Burkett**, Associate Professor of Law, and Director, Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i
- **Elizabeth Burleson**, Fulbright Senior Specialist, and Visiting Professor, University of Oregon School of Law
- **Ethan Elkind**, Bank of America Climate Change Research Fellow, UC Berkeley School of Law and UCLA School of Law

Panel Synopsis

Climate change is global in scope. The action or inaction of one country can hold unintended implications for another. Important consequences may result from a failure to adequately address climate change. Rising seas, drought, and sudden changes in climate can cause the displacement of groups of people and place economic and political strains on a recipient country. Some groups, such as indigenous peoples, agrarian communities, or islanders are particularly vulnerable to such dramatic changes in their way of life. This panel explores both domestic and international legal issues at the intersection of climate change induced migration and the rights of indigenous populations in an effort to describe the nature of the problem, articulate the barriers to justice such people encounter, and offer practical solutions for this inter-state dilemma.

1.20-1.40

Exhibition of Regional Organizations

Accompanied by coffee and tea served in the Courtyard.

1.40-3.00

Panel 2. A Constitutional Right to Environment: Comparative Lens on South Africa, India, and the USA

Co-sponsored by the American Constitution Society, the International Law Society, & The Federalist Society

- Facilitated by **Joseph DiMento**, Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design, School of Social Ecology, and Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine School of Law
- Panelists include:
 - **Deepa Badrinarayana**, Assistant Professor of Law, Chapman University School of Law
 - **Erwin Chemerinsky**, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine, School of Law
 - **Eric Christiansen**, Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship, Golden Gate University School of Law

Panel Synopsis

Is there a constitutional right to the environment? How has such a right been implemented in countries throughout the world? How does this third-generation human right fit within the existing corpus of international human rights instruments? How does a constitutional right to the environment relate to current efforts to address climate change from a legal perspective? This panel focuses on responding to these queries and developing an understanding of the viability of a constitutional right to the environment as a legal tool to aid in the pursuit of attaining climate justice.

3.00-3.20

Exhibition of Regional Organizations

Accompanied by coffee and tea served in the Courtyard.

3.20-4.40

Panel 3. Climate Change Litigation: One Pathway to Past & Future Relief for Climate Change Victims

Co-sponsored by the Orange County Human Rights Association

- Facilitated by **Cara Horowitz**, Andrew Sabin Family Foundation Executive Director, Emmett Center on Climate Change and the Environment, UCLA School of Law
- Panelists include:
 - **Ann Carlson**, Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Emmett Center on Climate Change and the Environment, UCLA School of Law
 - **Hari Osofsky**, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota School of Law
 - **Neil Popović**, Partner, Business Trial practice group, and Chair, International Arbitration Practice, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
 - **Mary Wood**, Philip H. Knight Professor of Law, and Faculty Director, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, University of Oregon School of Law

Panel Synopsis

As the reality of climate change comes to bear on society, legal responses to the issue have been developing. Engaging in litigation has emerged as a potentially fruitful avenue for claimants to redress grievances related to climate change and obtain climate justice. Climate change litigation may be used to enjoin harmful activities, compel compliance with statutes, and recover damages for noncompliance with climate change legislation or infringing upon individual and collective rights. This panel presents the evolving state of climate change litigation with an emphasis on how this form of legal action may be utilized to offer relief for victims of human rights and social justice violations related to environmental change.

4.40-4.50

Conclusion. Lessons on Strategy and Moving Forward

4.50-6.00

Exhibition of Regional Organizations and Wine & Cheese Reception