Wisconsin International Law Journal symposium  
March 31-April 1, 2022  
(Hybrid format)  

“Climate Change and Law: Global to Local legal and Policy Challenges”  
Room 2260, University of Wisconsin Law School  

CLE Credit for WI Attorneys Pending  

Overview  

Climate change is a defining issue of our generation. From the mass movement of people to the disappearance of island states, the adverse consequences of climate change pose unique and unprecedented legal challenges. Moreover, given the disproportionate impact on poor and marginalized communities and states, climate change raises profound social justice challenges.

United States is not immune to these consequences. From indigenous communities in Alaska to Isle de Jean Charles in Louisiana, communities are being relocated due to climate change while coastal communities from Florida to California are worrying about constant flooding and the impact on their property values, increasing severe and frequent extreme weather events, and wildfires ravaging the country, its economy and people. As the highest contributor to greenhouse gases historically, the United States has a greater responsibility to address climate change.

Within hours of being sworn in, President Biden re-joined the Paris Agreement and issued an executive order on climate change. On Earth Day, he held a virtual summit on climate change with world leaders where he pledged to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and go carbon neutral by 2050. Meanwhile in WI, Governor Evers established a Task Force on Climate Change headed by Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes. Its report was published in December 2020.

This symposium seeks to look at these developments. Climate change as well as transitioning to a low carbon economy pose many legal and policy challenges. It will feature leading lawyers, policy makers and activists to look at these challenges and the way forward. The symposium will launch the Wisconsin Initiative on Law and Climate Change (WILCC), a joint initiative between the Human Rights Program and the Global Legal Studies Center at the UW Law School.
Day 1: Thursday, March 31, 2022

4:00pm  Registration and refreshments  
        Law school Atrium

4:30pm  Welcome  
        Jake Joling  
        WILJ Senior Program Editor, UW Law School  
        Dean Dan Tokaji  
        UW Law School  
        Statement on invited keynote speaker, Lottie Cunningham Wren  
        Center for Justice and Human Rights of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua

5:00-6:30pm  Panel 1: Climate change: Consequences, Challenges, and Opportunities  
              This panel discusses the science of climate change, its consequences on  
              people, environment and the economy, the challenges of addressing it as  
              well as the opportunities it provides. It will also discuss the disproportionate  
              impact on racial and other minorities.  
              Moderator: Morgan Edwards  
              La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW-Madison  
              Speakers:  
              “Climate Change: This Time is Different”  
              Stephen Vavrus  
              Atmospheric Sciences, UW-Madison  
              “The Promise and Challenge of Carbon Dioxide Removal as a Climate  
              Response Measure”  
              Wil Burns  
              Environmental Policy & Culture Program, Northwestern University  
              “Racial Capitalism and Climate Change”  
              Carmen Gonzalez*  
              Loyola University Chicago School of Law  
              “Environmental Racism and Climate Justice: The Imperative for a Just  
              Transition”  
              Jacqueline Patterson  
              Chisholm Legacy Project
“Prefiguring Decolonial Legal Futures: ‘Critical Minerals’ and the Climate Crisis”

**Dayna Nadine Scott**  
*Osgoode Hall Law School & Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change, York University, Toronto*

6:30-7:30  
Reception and launch of Wisconsin Initiative on Law and Climate Change (WILCC)  
*Law School Atrium*

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### Day 2: Friday, April 1, 2022

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast and registration</strong></td>
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<td><em>Law School Atrium</em></td>
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<td>8:15-9:00</td>
<td><strong>Moderator: Heinz Klug</strong></td>
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<td><em>UW Law School</em></td>
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<td><strong>Keynote address</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes</strong></td>
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<td><em>State of Wisconsin</em></td>
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<td>9:00-10:30</td>
<td><strong>Panel 2: Climate Justice and Communities at Risk</strong></td>
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<td>Climate change poses an existential threat to certain groups and</td>
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<td>communities. This panel takes a closer look at these communities and</td>
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<td>the justice framework</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator: Heinz Klug</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Speakers:</strong></td>
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<td>“Climate Change and Small Island States: Where Things Stand Now”</td>
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<td><strong>Dessima Williams</strong></td>
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<td><em>Former Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN</em></td>
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<td>“Climate Change and Communities at Risk: The Unfolding Tale of Climate</td>
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<td><strong>Refugees</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sumudu Atapattu</strong></td>
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<td>“Climate Change and Youth”</td>
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<td><strong>Ayman Cherkaoui</strong></td>
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<td><em>Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, Morocco</em></td>
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“Rights, Resilience and Community-led Relocation”
**Robin Bronen***
*Alaska Institute for Justice*

“Gender, Indigeneity, and Climate Change in Africa”
**Damilola S. Olawuyi***
*HBKU Law School, Doha, Qatar*

**10:30-10:45am**  Break

**10:45-12:15pm**  Panel 3: International Law and Climate Change

This panel discusses how international law has addressed climate change, climate negotiations including COP26 in Glasgow, North/South challenges and human rights

**Moderator: Sumudu Atapattu**
*UW Law School*

**Speakers:**
“Addressing the Climate Crisis through International Law: Invoking the Advisory Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice”
**Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh***
*Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University*

"The International Climate Negotiations: Where Are We, What to Expect this Year, What is Needed?"
**Christina Voigt***
*University of Oslo, Norway*

“The Escazu Agreement on Procedural Rights and Climate Justice in Latin America: Lessons from Greenpeace vs. Argentina”
**Patricia Galvo Ferreira**
*University of Windsor, Canada*

“The Political Ecology of Climate Remedies: An Inter-American Human Rights System Prognosis”
**Juan Auz**
*Center for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School, Berlin, Germany*

**12:15-1:30pm**  Lunch break

**1:30-3:00pm**  Panel 4: US Law and Climate Change

This panel discusses how the United States has responded to climate change, President Biden’s Executive Order on climate change, the infrastructure bill and other recent initiatives on climate change. It examines what initiatives have been taken at the state level to address climate change.
**Moderator: Alexandra Huneeus**  
*UW Law School*

**Speakers:**

“Climate Change and the Biden Administration”  
**Steph Tai**  
*UW Law School*

“State Laws to Achieve Net Zero Emissions”  
**Michael Gerrard**  
*Columbia Law School*

“California’s Integrated Approach to a Clean Economy Transition”  
**Alice Kaswan**  
*University of San Francisco School of Law*

"On the Eve of Destruction: Courts Confronting the Climate Emergency"  
**Mary Wood**  
*University of Oregon School of Law*

3:00-3:15  Break

**3:15-4:30pm  Panel 5: Wisconsin and Climate Change**

This panel discusses the impact of climate change in WI, the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change, how WI is responding to climate change and law and policy challenges.

**Moderator: Steph Tai**  
*UW Law School*

**Speakers:**

“Win-win Solutions for Climate and Clean Air in Wisconsin”  
**Tracey Holloway**  
*Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies & Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences, UW-Madison*

“WI Climate Change Law and Tribal Nations”  
**Gary Besaw**  
*Menominee Tribal Department of Agriculture and Food system*

“City of Madison’s Commitment to Climate Action and Resilience”  
**Jessica Price**  
*City of Madison*
“Wisconsin Climate Policy and Political Polarization”
Nada Elmikashfi
Office of Representative Hong

“Climate Justice Activism”
Stephanie Janeth Salgado Altamirano
WI Student Climate Action Coalition, UW-Madison

4:30-4:45pm  Break

4:45-5:45pm  Roundtable on Teaching Climate Law

Moderator: Alexandra Huneeus
UW Law School

Participants: Michael Gerrard,* Mary Wood,* Sumudu Atapattu, Alice Kaswan and Steph Tai

6:30pm  Meet at the Union (optional)

8:00pm  Dinner for speakers, moderators, WILJ board members and invited guests

*These speakers are joining virtually