

Northwestern

PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Journal of Human Rights



*Northwestern University
Journal of Human Rights:*

**Human Rights and
the Environment**

Thursday, April 14th, 2022

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OPENING REMARKS with Dean Osofsky

9:00-9:05 a.m.

Climate Change: A Holistic Introduction with Ms. Alexandra Tarzikhan, Professor Dan Esty, and Professor Michael Barsa

9:05-10:00 a.m.

Q&A by Professor Thomas Geraghty

Dark Waters: Fighting “Forever Chemicals” with Mr. Rob Bilott

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Q&A by Professor Michael Barsa

Environmental Litigation with Ms. Lauren Piette, Ms. Mae Manupipatpong, and Mr. Howard Learner

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Q&A by Professor Nancy Loeb

LUNCH BREAK

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Community and Indigenous Engagement with Mr. Scott Stone, Ms. Tatiana Devia, and Mr. John Petoskey

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Q&A by Professor Bridget Arimond

Media Access in the Fight for the Environment with Mr. John Iadarola and Ms. Victoria Baranetsky

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Interdisciplinary Solutions to the Climate Crisis with Ms. Minu Parahoe, Ms. Romina Picolotti, and Mr. Jorge Daniel Taillant

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Q&A by Professor Stephen Sawyer

CLOSING REMARKS with Editor-in-Chief Caitlin Schumacher

4:00-4:05 p.m.

Climate Change: A Holistic Introduction

9:05-10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Ms. Alexandra Tarzikhian



Alex Tarzikhian is the Schuette Clinical Fellow in Health and Human Rights associated with the Center for International Human Rights at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. Currently, she is supporting health and human rights projects in Somalia, Lebanon, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, and Gaza through the Northwestern Access to Health Project. Alex attended COP26 this past November. Before joining the CIHR, she worked in refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Greece. In 2018, she gave a Tedx talk at Tufts to raise awareness and humanize the refugee crisis and uses her social media page to share refugee stories. Alex grew up in Syria and has a dual degree in Law and a Master's in Public Health

from Northeastern University School of Law and Tufts University School of Medicine. Her interests lie in the fields of Human Rights, Global Health, and Migration.

Speaker: Professor Dan Esty



Dan Esty is the Hillhouse Professor at Yale University with appointments in both the Law and Environment Schools -- and director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy (www.yale.edu/envirocenter) and co-director of the Yale Initiative on Sustainable Finance. Professor Esty has written or edited fourteen books (including the prizewinning volumes *Green to Gold* and *A Better Planet*) and dozens of articles on environmental protection, regulatory reform, and sustainability -- and their connections to corporate strategy, competitiveness, and trade. He served in various leadership roles at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 1989 - 93 and as Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection from 2011- 14.

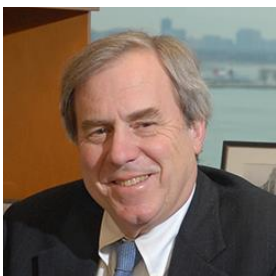
Speaker: Professor Michael Barsa



Professor Barsa has written widely on food security and climate change, international environmental claims under the Alien Tort Claims Act, risk perception, the Public Trust Doctrine, the Deepwater Horizon disaster, and judicial review in an age of hyper-polarization. Professor Barsa's opinion pieces have appeared in *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Chicago Sun-Times*, and he has been interviewed on WTTW Chicago Tonight and on international radio. He has received numerous teaching awards, including the Robert Childres Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence and the Outstanding Professor Award in the Master of Science in Law Program. He also lectures to high school students about environmental issues and was a keynote

speaker for the Midwest State of the Junior State of America.

Q&A Lead: Professor Thomas Geraghty



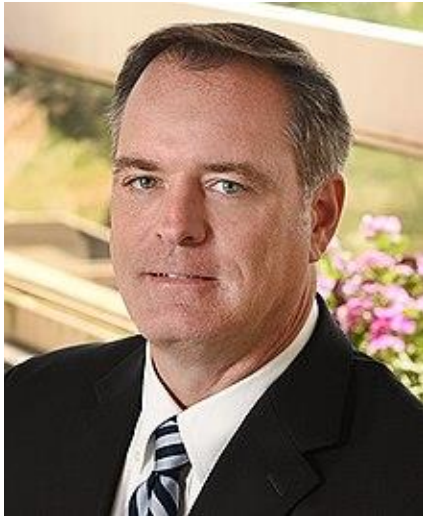
Thomas Geraghty is the Class of 1967 James B. Haddad Professor of Law, and formerly the Associate Dean for Clinical Legal Education and Director of the Bluhm Legal Clinic at the Northwestern University School of Law. The Bluhm Legal Clinic houses 35 clinical faculty members and enrolls 170 students each year in its various programs. In addition to teaching, fund-raising, and administrative responsibilities, Thomas Geraghty maintains an active caseload at the Bluhm Legal Clinic, concentrating primarily in criminal and juvenile defense, death penalty appeals, child-centered projects dealing with the representation of children and juvenile court

reform.

Dark Waters: Fighting “Forever Chemicals”

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Mr. Rob Bilott



Rob is a partner in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky offices of the law firm, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, where he has practiced in the Environmental and Litigation Practice Groups for over 31 years. During that time, Rob has handled and led some of the most novel and complex cases in the country involving damage from exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”), including the first individual, class action, mass tort, and multi-district litigation proceedings involving PFAS, recovering over \$1 billion for clients impacted by the chemicals. In 2017, Rob received the Right Livelihood Award, known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize,” for his decades of work on behalf of those injured by PFAS chemical contamination. Rob is the author of the book, *“Exposure: Poisoned Water, Corporate Greed, and One Lawyer’s Twenty-Year Battle Against DuPont,”* and his story is the inspiration for the 2019 motion picture, *“Dark Waters,”* starring

Mark Ruffalo as Rob. Rob’s story and work is also featured in the documentary, *“The Devil We Know.”* Rob is a 1987 graduate of New College in Sarasota, Florida and a 1990 graduate of the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Rob also serves on the Boards of Less Cancer and Green Umbrella and is frequently invited to provide keynote lectures and talks at law schools, universities, colleges, communities and other organizations all over the world. Rob is a fellow in the Right Livelihood College, a Lecturer at the Yale School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, and an Honorary Professor at the National University of Cordoba in Argentina. Rob also has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from both Ohio State University and New College.

Q&A Lead: Professor Michael Barsa



Professor Barsa has written widely on food security and climate change, international environmental claims under the Alien Tort Claims Act, risk perception, the Public Trust Doctrine, the Deepwater Horizon disaster, and judicial review in an age of hyper-polarization. Professor Barsa’s opinion pieces have appeared in *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Chicago Sun-Times*, and he has been interviewed on *WTW Chicago Tonight* and on international radio. He has received numerous teaching awards, including the Robert Childres Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence and the Outstanding Professor Award in the Master of Science in Law Program. He also lectures to high school students about environmental issues and was a keynote speaker for the Midwest State of the Junior State of America.

Environmental Litigation

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Speaker: Ms. Mae Manupipatpong

Mae Manupipatpong is an associate attorney with the International program at Earthjustice. She is based in San Francisco. Mae worked for two years as an associate attorney in Alston & Bird's Litigation and Trial Practice group in Atlanta, Georgia. Mae received her bachelor's degrees in Philosophy and Political Science from the College of Wooster in Ohio and a J.D. from U.C. Berkeley, School of Law. While at Berkeley, Mae focused on environmental law issues, including tribal rights to natural resources, pesticide pollution in waterways, and strategies for reducing Thailand's greenhouse gas emissions. She served as Publishing Editor and Articles Editor of the

Ecology Law Quarterly as well as a teaching assistant for the Environmental Law Writing Seminar. In her third year of law school, she completed a field placement with Earthjustice International. Mae was born in Thailand, but grew up in Indonesia and graduated high school in Japan.



Speaker: Ms. Lauren Piette

Lauren Piette has been an attorney with Earthjustice, a national environmental law organization, since she graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 2018. She works in Chicago for Earthjustice's Coal Program, which aims to end our reliance on dirty fossil-fueled power plants and to clean up their toxic legacy.



Speaker: Mr. Howard Learner

Howard A. Learner is an experienced public interest environmental and energy litigation attorney serving as Executive Director of the Environmental Law & Policy Center – the Midwest's leading environmental legal advocacy and eco-business innovation organization. Mr. Learner is responsible for the overall organizational strategic leadership, financial platform, and program direction for ELPC's successful work to promote clean energy development solutions to climate change challenges, advance innovative transportation policies, protect the Great Lakes, and preserve the Midwest's natural resources and heritage. One of ELPC's core premises is that

environmental progress and economic development can be achieved together. ELPC's advocacy programs put that sustainable development policy principle into action. Mr. Learner is also a Professor (Adjunct) at the University of Michigan Law School teaching advanced seminars on climate change and clean energy law, environmental constitutionalism, and sustainable development law. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School, and his B.A. (Honors) from the University of Michigan.



Q&A Lead: Professor Nancy Loeb

Nancy Loeb is a Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of the Environmental Advocacy Clinic at Northwestern's Bluhm Legal Clinic. Prof. Loeb also teaches classes on Energy Law and Policy, Economics and the Environment, and Regulatory Strategies and Communications. Prof. Loeb's clinical casework and teaching are focused on environmental justice, sustainability issues, and natural resources protection in the U.S. and globally. Prof. Loeb is a member of the Board of the Environmental Law & Policy Center.

Community and Indigenous Engagement with Mr. Scott Stone, Ms. Tatiana Devia, and Mr. John Petoskey

1:00-2:00 p.m.



Speaker: Mr. Scott Stone

Scott Stone is an attorney and conservationist. He is the founder and CEO of Lookfar Conservation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that advises charitable foundations and small, local NGOs on biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, and regenerative agriculture projects in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. He also is the founder and a partner at Glencoe Strategies LLC, a climate policy consulting firm. Scott previously practiced international environmental law with the law firm of Hunton & Williams (now Hunton Andrews Kurth) in Washington, DC, and San Francisco. He also previously served as the Director of Global Environmental Initiatives for nContext, a data tech company, and as a staff attorney and policy analyst for the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development. Scott received the U.S. EPA Climate Protection Award and the U.S. EPA Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award for his contributions to a 2007 agreement on HCFC control measures under the Montreal Protocol. Scott also has received the Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing. Scott serves on the Board of Trustees of the National Park Trust and formerly served as chair and president of the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation.



Speaker: Ms. Tatiana Devia

Tatiana Devia is a Staff Attorney and leader for the Colombia Project at Corporate Accountability Lab. Her work primarily focuses on transitional justice, business and human rights, and environmental justice. For years, she investigated human rights abuses in Latin America through her work with various non-profit organizations, government agencies, and involvement in forensic cases. Tatiana was also an investigator with the Fair Food Standards Council monitoring the Fair Food Program and the compliance of its human-rights-based code of conduct designed to improve wages and enforce dignified labor standards in agriculture. Tatiana has a B.A. in Anthropology and a M.S. in Criminal Forensic Studies. She graduated *cum laude* from American University Washington College of Law in 2018 and is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia. Tatiana was born in Colombia and is fluent in Spanish, and speaks French. Her daughter and passion for weekend road trips keep her active and eternally curious.



Speaker: Mr. John Petoskey

John Petoskey is an Associate Attorney at Earthjustice's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago, IL. He received his B.A., M.S., and J.D. from the University of Michigan and is barred in Illinois. John's represents Tribal Nations and community-based organizations in environmental litigation before administrative agencies and state and federal courts. John's cases concern issues related to clean water, fossil fuels, and environmental justice. In 2019, John was an Indigenous Human Rights Fellow with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, CH. There he worked with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) on

the 2019 [Report on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). John is a citizen of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and grew up on his Tribe's reservation in Peshawbestown, MI.



Q&A Lead: Professor Bridget Arimond

Bridget Arimond is a human rights lawyer and a member of the faculty of the Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, where she is a Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of the LLM Program in International Human Rights. As a clinical professor, she works with her students on cases and projects challenging human rights violations in the United States and around the globe, using the norms and mechanisms of international human rights law. Her clinic has worked in collaboration with human rights organizations throughout the world, including (among others) Campaña Colombian Contra Minas, Greenpeace International, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia, UNICEF (Thailand), the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Global Initiative for Sexuality and Human Rights, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Refugee Rights Initiative, Center for Constitutional Rights, and Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, as well as many smaller local grassroots NGOs in Africa, the Americas, and Asia. She has participated as an expert in consultative meetings convened by the UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures on children's rights, the rights of migrants, and corporate accountability for human rights violations in the extractives sector, and she has lectured and conducted trainings internationally at universities and other venues on a wide range of international human rights issues. Professor Arimond joined the Northwestern faculty in 2003 following more than twenty years as a civil rights lawyer litigating class action race and sex discrimination cases in U.S. courts, in fields including voting rights, employment discrimination, gender equity and equality before the courts. In addition to working in private practice, she served as the Special Deputy Corporation Counsel for Affirmative Action for the City of Chicago and as the Supervisory Attorney for the Women's Law Project of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, an organization that provides free civil legal assistance to low income people. She received her undergraduate degree, with distinction, from Stanford University and her law degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Media Access in the Fight for the Environment

2:00-3:00 p.m.



Speaker: Mr. John Iadarola

John Iadarola is the host of *The Damage Report*, where he analyzes the news of the day from a progressive perspective. He graduated from the University of Connecticut before pursuing a doctorate in Political Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Arlene, and their two dogs.



Speaker: Ms. Victoria Baranetsky

Victoria Baranetsky is general counsel at The Center for Investigative Reporting, where she counsels reporters on newsgathering, libel, privacy, subpoenas, and other newsroom matters. Prior to CIR, Victoria worked at The New York Times, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the Wikimedia Foundation and clerked on the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Baranetsky holds degrees from Columbia University, Columbia Journalism School, Harvard Law School and Oxford University. She also teaches at Berkeley Law School as an adjunct professor and writes about the First Amendment for various publications, including the LA Times, CJR, and law reviews. She is a fellow at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University and is barred in California, New York and New Jersey.

Interdisciplinary Solutions to the Climate Crisis

3:00-4:00 p.m.



Speaker: Ms. Minu Parahoe

Program Director of Amazon Conservation Team Suriname, as of 2013. Responsible for The Program execution in North East Amazon, including Guyana, French Guiana, and north Brasil. Under her leadership ACT Suriname expanded from working with 4 Indigenous Peoples in south Suriname to 8 communities and new relationships with tribal communities in the Matawai region of central Suriname. Prior to joining ACT, she worked as an independent consultant in Natural Resource Management and was the Freshwater and Protected Areas Officer of WWFGuianas for three years. As a researcher she worked at the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) from 1996-2007, started in the GISlab, after which she started a new division agro-biodiversity. She holds a Master of Science in Natural Resource Management from the UWI, Mona Campus and an undergrad in Agronomy from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname.



Speaker: Ms. Romina Picolotti

Romina Picolotti is a life-long human rights and environmental defender. She is a human rights lawyer from Argentina with an LLM from American University in International Law. In 1999, she founded the Center for Human Rights and Environment, and established the first human rights and environmental legal and legislative clinic in Latin America. In 2006 she won the acclaimed global Sophie Prize for her distinguished contributions to advance human rights and environmental protection. She later became Argentina's Environment Secretary, designing and launching an aggressive wave of environmental compliance and enforcement actions in multiple sectors, cracking down on large corporate polluters. She currently serves as Senior Policy Analyst for the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, where she is helping global agencies and governments craft global climate policies, action and legislation to rapidly slow climate change.



Speaker: Mr. Jorge Daniel Taillant

Jorge Daniel Taillant is a graduate of UC Berkeley in Political Science with a graduate degree from Georgetown University in Latin American Studies. He co-founded and directs the Center for Human Rights and Environment and has contributed extensively throughout his career to the intersections between these fields. He has led innovative advocacy strategies to promote human rights and environmental protection on issues as diverse as the right to water, the social and environmental impacts of mining and fracking, corporate transparency and accountability and the protection of glaciers. More recently his focus has shifted to promote fast climate mitigation through the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants such as methane and black carbon, while ensuring that climate equity is addressed alongside strategies and actions to slow climate change.



Q&A Lead: Professor Stephen Sawyer

Sawyer joined Northwestern Law School in January 2004 and serves now as Clinical Associate Professor of Law, Senior Counsel for the Center for International Human Rights and Director of Curricular Projects. His legal specialty is public international law.