11-11-2010

New Directions in Environmental Justice

Randall S. Abate, Moderator
Florida A & M University College of Law

Robert Abrams, Moderator
Florida A & M University College of Law

Marcia Allen Owens, Moderator

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New Directions in Environmental Justice
Environmental Law and Justice Symposium
Florida A&M University College of Law
November 11-12, 2010

Co-sponsored by FAMU College of Law
and FAMU Center for Environmental Equity and Justice

Thursday, November 11

5:30 p.m. Welcome and Introduction of Special Guest Speaker
   Kerene Tayloe, President, FAMU Environmental Law Society

5:35 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Remarks by
   Gwen Keyes Fleming, Esq.
   EPA Region 4 Administrator

7:00 p.m. Dinner at Sheraton Hotel for speakers and special guests (Invitation Only)

Friday, November 12

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
   Provost Cynthia Hughes Harris, Florida A&M University
   Dean LeRoy Pernell, FAMU College of Law
   Professor Randall S. Abate, FAMU College of Law
   Julian Jackson-Fannin, FAMU Law Review

9:55 a.m. Introduction of Opening Keynote Speaker
   Josephine Balzac, FAMU Law Review

10:00-10:55 a.m. Opening Keynote Presentation
   Dr. Beverly Wright
   Founder and Director
   Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
   New Orleans

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. National and International Developments in Environmental Justice
   Moderator: Professor Robert Abrams, FAMU College of Law
   Panelists:
   Prof. Deepa Badrinarayana, Chapman Law School
   Lisa Garcia, Esq., EPA Headquarters, Washington, DC
   Prof. Carmen Gonzalez, Seattle University School of Law
12:30 p.m.-12:55 p.m. Lunch and Networking

12:55 p.m. Introduction of Luncheon Keynote Speaker
Joseph Dillon, Vice President, FAMU Environmental Law Society

1:00 p.m.-1:55 p.m. Breakout Panels on Current Developments in Environmental Justice

Panel I: Toxic Dumping and Brownfields
Moderator: Dr. Marcia Owens, Florida A&M University

Panelists:
Michael Goldstein, Esq., Akerman Senterfitt, Miami, FL
Dr. Cynthia Harris, Florida A&M University
Kim Jones, Esq., EPA Region 4, Atlanta, GA
Raul Soto, EPA Headquarters, Washington, DC

Panel II: Impacts to Indigenous Peoples and Wildlife
Moderator: Professor Randall S. Abate, FAMU College of Law

Panelists:
Dr. J. Mijin Cha, Director of Campaign Research, Urban Agenda, New York, NY
Prof. Catherine O’Neill, Seattle University School of Law
Jacki Lopez, Esq., Center for Biological Diversity, San Francisco, CA

Panel III: EPA Debate on Environmental Justice
Sponsored by the EPA, teams of students representing two historically black colleges or universities will debate hot topics in environmental justice disputes.

3:30 p.m.-3:40 p.m. Break

3:40 p.m. Introduction of Closing Keynote Speaker
Sarah Mattern, FAMU Law Review

3:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Closing Keynote Presentation
Prof. Maxine Burkett
University of Hawaii School of Law

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Reception
Florida A&M University
College of Law
Environmental Law and
Justice Symposium

New Directions
in Environmental
Justice

November 11-12, 2010
New Directions in Environmental Justice
An Environmental Law and Justice Symposium
Florida A&M College of Law
November 11-12, 2010

Co-sponsored by Florida A&M College of Law and the Florida A&M University
Center for Environmental Equity and Justice

Agenda: Thursday, Nov. 11 - Sheraton Orlando Downtown

5:30 p.m. Welcome and Introduction of Special Guest Speaker
Kerene Tayloe, President, FAMU Environmental Law Society

5:35-6:30 p.m. Remarks by Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, Esq.,
EPA Region 4 Administrator

7:00 p.m. Dinner at Sheraton Orlando Downtown for speakers and special guests
(Invitation Only)

Agenda: Friday, Nov. 12 - FAMU College of Law, Room 240

8:30-9:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
LeRoy Pernell, Dean, FAMU College of Law
Linda Barge-Miles, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Florida A&M University
Randall S. Abate, Associate Professor of Law, FAMU College of Law
Dr. Richard Gragg, Director, FAMU Center for Environmental Equity and
Justice, Environmental Sciences Institute
Julian Jackson-Fannin, Editor-in-Chief, FAMU Law Review
Kerene Tayloe, President, FAMU Environmental Law Society
Tina Smith, President, FAMU Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
Kenneth Dukes, President, Hatchett Pre-Law Society

9:55 a.m. Introduction of Opening Keynote Speaker
Josephine Balzac, FAMU Law Review

10:00-10:55 a.m. Opening Keynote Presentation:
Dr. Beverly Wright, Founder and Director, Deep South Center for
Environmental Justice, New Orleans

11:00 a.m. National and International Developments in Environmental Justice

Moderator: Prof. Robert Abrams, FAMU College of Law
Panelists:
Prof. Deepa Badrinarayana, Chapman Law School
Carlos Evans, Esq., EPA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.
Prof. Carmen Gonzalez, Seattle University School of Law
12:30-12:55 p.m. Lunch and Networking

12:55 p.m. Introduction of Luncheon Keynote Speaker

Joseph Dillon, Vice President, FAMU Environmental Law Society

1:00 p.m.-1:55 p.m. Luncheon Keynote Presentation:

Quentin Pair, Esq., Trial Attorney, U.S. Dept. of Justice

2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Breakout Panels on Current Developments in Environmental Justice

**Panel I:** Toxic Dumping and Brownfields

**Moderator:** Dr. Marcia Owens, Assistant Professor, FAMU Environmental Sciences Institute

**Panelists:**

Michael Goldstein, Esq., Akerman Senterfitt, Miami, FL

Dr. Cynthia Harris, Director, FAMU Institute of Public Health

Kim Jones, Esq., EPA Region 4, Atlanta, GA

**Panel II:** Impacts to Indigenous Peoples and Wildlife

**Moderator:** Prof. Randall S. Abate, FAMU College of Law

**Panelists:**

Dr. J. Mijin Cha, Director of Campaign Research, Urban Agenda, New York, NY

Prof. Catherine O’Neill, Seattle University School of Law

Jacki Lopez, Esq., Center for Biological Diversity, San Francisco, CA

3:40 p.m. Introduction of Closing Keynote Speaker

Sarah Mattern, FAMU Law Review

3:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Closing Keynote Presentation:

The Future of Environmental Justice

Prof. Maxine Burkett, University of Hawaii School of Law

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Reception

5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Environmental Justice Listening Session

**Session Leaders:** Cynthia Peurifoy and Marva King

This informal session will provide an opportunity for EPA representatives to hear from local environmental justice stakeholders. Cynthia Peurifoy will represent the Region 4 Office of Environmental Justice and Marva King, the National CARE Grants Team Lead/Program Coordinator for EPA, will join Ms. Peurifoy in facilitating the discussion.
Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, Esq., is the Administrator of the EPA Region 4 Office in Atlanta, Georgia. She took office as the DeKalb County District Attorney in January 2005 making her the first African-American and first woman ever to serve in this post. As DeKalb’s DA, her staff prosecuted approximately 11,000 felony cases annually. She also managed and trained approximately 45 attorneys and more than 55 support personnel, and administered a $12 million budget.

Some of her key initiatives as DA included creating a pre-trial diversion program, expanding support services for victims, and dedicating resources that focus on crimes against women, white-collar crime, gang violence, truancy among teens, and Just Us G.A.L.S., Girls Achieving Leadership and Success, an annual teen mentoring workshop. She also co-hosted quarterly a series of community meetings called Crime Prevention Tours. At the meetings, DeKalb County residents learned about how DeKalb County law enforcement agencies work together to help prevent and prosecute crime. Before being elected in November 2004 as the DeKalb County DA, she was DeKalb’s Solicitor-General being sworn into office in January 1999. She made history in this post as the first African-American, first woman and the youngest person ever elected as Solicitor-General in DeKalb County. Gwen is a New Jersey native and earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Douglass College, the all-women's college affiliated with Rutgers University. She earned her law degree from the Emory University School of Law.

She is a former president of Emory Law School’s Alumni Association, has served as an Emory University School of Law adjunct professor, and received the institution’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007 among other legal honors. She is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP, a graduate of the Leadership DeKalb Class of 1999, the Leadership Georgia Class of 2000, and the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2007. She is on the State Bar of Georgia’s 2009-2010 law-related education committee and a member of the State Bar Board of Governors. In October 1999, she initiated a faith-based coalition to end domestic violence in DeKalb. The project educated faith community members about domestic violence and available counseling resources, but also provided training and assistance to religious leaders who wanted to establish their own counseling services or shelter facilities.

She has been featured in various newspapers and magazines and has appeared as a guest commentator on In Session, a national TV show about criminal trials that airs on truTV, a CNN property. The Atlanta Business League selected her as one of Atlanta’s Top 100 Black Women of Influence and Ebony featured her in its March 2000 issue as one of “21 Women to Watch for the 21st Century.” She has also been recognized as one of Georgia Trend magazine’s “Top 40 Under 40.” In September 2009, she was chosen by the Atlanta Business Chronicle, a leading business newspaper, for its “Who’s Who.” The honor is bestowed upon the top 100 metro Atlanta professionals who are leaders in their respective professions. She is the 2010 recipient of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys’ Leah Ward Sears Award of Distinction. In March 2001, Gwen was inducted into the Douglass College Alumna Hall of Fame for her contributions to the law and the community. She is the youngest alumna to be so honored in the college’s history.

Gwen credits her parents, Ursula Keyes, a retired registered nurse, and her late father, Andrew J. Keyes, a former Tuskegee Airman, as the reason for her commitment to community service. She says that her parents “taught her to have compassion for people who cannot help themselves.” She is married to Randal Fleming and they have two sons. The Flemings are members of Green Forest Community Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia.
**Opening Keynote Speaker**

**Dr. Beverly Wright,** environmental justice scholar and activist, is the founder of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice currently at Dillard University in New Orleans. The Center addresses environmental and health inequities along the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor and is a community/university partnership providing education, training, and job placement. Since Hurricane Katrina, the Center has focused largely on research, policy, community outreach, assistance, and the education of displaced African-American residents of New Orleans.

Dr. Wright served as the co-chair of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Taskforce for New Orleans Mayor-Elect Mitch Landrieu’s transition team. She is currently serving on the Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans and is a member of the board of the Tony Mizzocchi Center of the United Steelworkers of America. She has served on the Corps of Engineers’ Environmental Advisory Board, the Mayor’s Office of Environmental Affairs’ Brownfields Consortium, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the New Orleans’ Select Committee for the Sewerage and Water Board, chaired the 2002 Second National People of Color Leadership Summit, and currently co-chairs the Environmental Justice Climate Change Initiative, is a member of the Commission Delegation to the U.N. Conference on Climate Change (COP15), and serves as the president of the African American Women of Purpose and Power in New Orleans. Dr. Wright received the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award in 2006, the 2008 EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition 2008 Community Award, the Ford Motor Company’s Freedom’s Sisters Award in July of 2009, the prestigious 2009 Heinz Award, as well as the 2010 Beta Kappa Chi Humanitarian Assistance Award bestowed by the National Institute of Science.

**Luncheon Keynote Speaker**

**Quentin Pair, Esq.** has been a trial attorney in the Environmental Enforcement Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) since 1980. Since 2000, he is the Environmental Justice Coordinator representing the Department on the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Environmental Justice (IWG). From 2000-2007, he served as Chairman for the IWG’s Native American Native Task Force. He has also served as Senior Attorney Advisor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Environmental Justice. During his tenure in ENRD, he has been appointed Special Prosecutor by the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment Division in cases referred for criminal violations of federal environmental statutes.

Mr. Pair is the founding Chair for the DOJ Association of Black Attorneys and serves currently as Co-Chair of the American Bar Association’s Committee on Diversity and Environmental Justice. Since 2004, he has served as Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Law, where he teaches Environmental Law and Environmental Justice. Prior to serving at DOJ, he was senior trial counsel in private practice with the law firm of F. Lee Bailey, Melvin Belli, and Edward Bellen representing members in the military before court martial; and the law firm of Ridley and McLean representing criminal defendants before the D.C. Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.
Maxine Burkett is an Associate Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai‘i and serves as the inaugural Director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP), at the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program.

Professor Burkett's courses include Climate Change Law and Policy, Torts, Environmental Law, Race and American Law, and International Development. She has written in the area of Race, Reparations, and Environmental Justice. Currently, her work focuses on “Climate Justice,” writing on the disparate impact of climate change on poor and of-color communities and the ethical and legal obligation owed to these communities. Her March 2007 conference “The Climate of Environmental Justice,” at the University of Colorado, brought together leading academics, activists, and legal practitioners in the Environmental Justice field to consider the emerging interplay between race, poverty, and global warming.

Professor Burkett has presented her own research on Climate Justice throughout the United States and in West Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean. She most recently served as the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics at the Wayne Morse Center, University of Oregon. As the Fall 2010 scholar for the Center’s “Climate Ethics and Climate Equity” theme of inquiry, she was one of the youngest scholars to hold the Wayne Morse Chair.

As the Director of ICAP, she leads projects to address climate change law, policy, and planning for island communities in Hawai‘i, the Pacific region, and beyond. In its first eighteen months, ICAP has completed several climate change adaptation related policy documents for Hawai‘i and other Pacific Island nations, specifically the Federated States of Micronesia. It has also hosted numerous outreach and education programs on island resiliency and climate change and engaged planning agencies in all four counties in Hawai‘i and seven state agencies and offices, as well as several federal entities and many state legislators. Most notably, ICAP has partnered with the Hawai‘i State Office of Planning to conduct early planning and assessment for a statewide Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Professor Burkett attended Williams College and Exeter College, Oxford University, and received her law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. She has worked in private practice in Honolulu with Davis, Levin, Livingston and Paul, Johnson, Park & Niles, and served as a law clerk with The Honorable Susan Illston of the United States District Court, Northern District of California. Prior to her appointment at the University of Hawai‘i, Professor Burkett taught at the University of Colorado Law School. Professor Burkett is from the island of Jamaica, and now she and her husband raise their two young children on the island of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i.
Randall S. Abate is an Associate Professor of Law at Florida A&M University College of Law where he teaches domestic and international environmental law courses and Constitutional Law I and II. Professor Abate joined the FAMU College of Law faculty in 2009 with 15 years of full-time law teaching experience at five law schools. He also has taught international environmental law courses in study abroad programs in Nairobi, Vancouver, and the Cayman Islands.

Professor Abate has published and presented widely on environmental law topics, with a recent emphasis on climate change law and policy. His most recent climate change articles have been published in the Stanford Environmental Law Journal (2007), Connecticut Law Review (2008), Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum (2009) and Washington Law Review (2010). In 2010, Professor Abate delivered climate change presentations at Tulane Law School and Yale Law School, and he has been invited to deliver a climate change law and justice lecture series in three cities in Brazil in December.

Professor Abate is the faculty coach for the international environmental law and animal law moot court teams at FAMU College of Law. Early in his career, Professor Abate 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.

Robert Abrams is a Professor of Law at Florida A&M University College of Law. An expert in both Water Law and Environmental Law, he is co-author of a leading casebook in each field: Legal Control of Water Resources (with Joseph Sax, Barton Thompson, Jr., and John Leshy, 4th ed. 2006) and Nature Law & Society: A Coursebook on Environmental Law & Policy, (with Zygmunt Plater, Robert Graham, Lisa Heinzerling, & David Wirth (3rd ed. 2004). He has published more than 40 articles and book chapters in those fields and on other legal topics.

Professor Abrams is past Chair of the ABA Water Resources Committee and is currently serving as a Vice Chair of that committee. He is a contributing editor of the Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases and a Life Member of the American Law Institute.

Professor Abrams is in his 37th year of full time law teaching and has taught or served as visiting faculty at several schools including the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Western New England College School of Law, and overseas at the Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht, University of Paris and Oxford University. He holds two degrees, an A.B. and J.D. from the University of Michigan. He has been a member of the FAMU College of Law faculty since 2004.
Panelists

Deepa Badrinarayana
Chapman Law School Professor Badrinarayana holds a Doctorate in Juridical Studies in Environmental Law from Pace Law School. Her thesis focus was on global environmental governance viewed from the perspective of international legal theory. While pursuing her doctorate, Professor Badrinarayana researched for Professor Frank P. Grad at Columbia Law School on environmental and public health laws. Between 2005 and 2006, she was a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Global Legal Studies, Columbia Law School. Professor Badrinarayana was also a consultant to the United Nations Global Compact, on issues of corporate voluntarism and regulations. Before coming to the United States, Professor Badrinarayana was a Research Officer for a Government of India-World Bank Environmental Capacity-Building Project, at the National Law School of India University. In addition to research and advocacy, she also trained government officials and legal professionals in environmental law. Professor Badrinarayana was part of a team that advised the Government of India on its new legislation to manage biomedical waste. Professor Badrinarayana holds an LL.M. in Environmental Law from Pace Law School and a B.A.L.L.B.(Honors) from the National Law School of India University. She is also a Member of the World Conservation Union, Committee on Environmental Law, and is a member of IUCN’s Energy Law and Climate Specialty Group. Professor Badrinarayana’s scholarship focuses on the intersection between climate change, energy, international law, and economics. Having studied law in two common law jurisdictions, India and the United States, her research involves a comparative component. Professor Badrinarayana is particularly interested in highlighting the evolving and elusive nature of legal theory when applied in different jurisdictions. Her articles have appeared in the Washington Law Review, Fordham Environmental Law Review, and Environmental Law Review.

Moderators cont.

Marcia Allen Owens
A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Marcia Allen Owens is an honors graduate of Jackson State University, where she earned a B.S. in Biology. Following graduation, she moved to Atlanta, where she pursued graduate work in Biology at Atlanta University. Dr. Owens earned a J.D. from the Emory School of Law, and specialized in environmental law, as Assistant Regional Counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and then as Assistant City Attorney and Chief of the Environmental Advisory Unit for the City of Atlanta Law Department. She also holds a Ph.D. in Educational Studies (Science and Environmental Education) and a Master of Divinity from Emory University. Currently, Dr. Owens serves as an Assistant Professor in the Florida A&M University Environmental Sciences Institute. As a transdisciplinary scholar, Dr. Owens’ research interests include environmental literacy, environmental law and policy, environmental justice, religion and ecology, and climate change. Dr. Owens also serves on the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches (NCC) and is a part of the NCC Eco-Justice Working Group. In 2008, she was part of an NCC delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Talks in Accra, Ghana. This delegation, with members from the U.S., Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda, addressed the issue of climate change as a justice issue. In October 2009, Dr. Owens participated as the environmental justice expert at the Gulf Coast Public Meeting of the White House Council of Environmental Quality’s Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force.
**J. Mijin Cha**

Dr. J. Mijin Cha’s work and academic experience has focused on U.S. and international environmental justice and green economy/green jobs. She is currently the Director of Campaign Research and Policy at Urban Agenda and its partner organization, New York Jobs with Justice. She is the primary author of the New York City Green Collar Jobs Roadmap, co-released by Urban Agenda and the Center for American Progress, and convener of the New York City Apollo Alliance. She also co-authored, No Return on our Investment, an in-depth report on Industrial Development Agencies in New York State.

Dr. Cha’s prior work experience includes the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, the Progressive States Network, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Integrated Center on International Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal. She has published several articles on a range of topics including environmental justice, international environmental justice, and green jobs. In addition, she created the only legal literacy toolkit for environmental justice training for the Hindu-Kush Himalaya region.

Dr. Cha is also an Adjunct Professor at Fordham Law School. She is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law and LL.M. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies.

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**Carlos Evans, Esq.**

Carlos Evans is Special Assistant to Lisa Garcia, Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator for Environmental Justice. Mr. Evans assists Ms. Garcia elevate environmental justice issues to the highest levels of the agency and works across programs to integrate and strengthen all of EPA’s EJ initiatives. Their work promotes meaningful and working relationships with EJ communities and builds strong partnerships to address some of the country’s most persistent environmental challenges.

Mr. Evans joined EPA in 2003 as Assistant Regional Counsel in Region 5 where he litigated administrative claims and counseled program offices on multimedia issues. In 2005, Mr. Evans joined EPA headquarters in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance where he developed policies related to Superfund and other cleanup authorities. Mr. Evans holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law.
Panelists cont.

Michael Goldstein, Esq.

Michael Goldstein is the Chair of Akerman’s Contaminated Lands practice. He has more than 18 years of experience exclusively in the areas of environmental law, environmental redevelopment, environmental litigation, and environmental permitting and compliance for a broad range of clients, including public and private corporations, developers, local governments, Community Redevelopment Agencies, lenders, and renewable energy companies. In the last decade, as local government infill and smart growth policies have increasingly encouraged developers and end-users to revisit urban sites, Michael’s practice has focused on helping clients navigate the environmental regulatory and third party liability risk issues associated with building on or otherwise reusing properties that have been directly or indirectly impacted by contamination. Michael’s practice has a strong emphasis on the remediation, redevelopment, financing, and beneficial reuse of Brownfield sites and involves a broad array of Brownfields related transactional, administrative, regulatory, legal, legislative, and policy work for clients in both the private and public sectors. Michael was the founding Chairman of the Florida Brownfields Association and served as its Chairman and President for the first five years of the organization. In 2008, he founded and funded the Goldstein Brownfields Foundation, which is dedicated to empowering individuals and communities with scholarships, programming, and resources to restore polluted land, revitalize neighborhoods, protect public health, and increase the ethnic and gender diversity of lawyers working in the environmental arena. In 2009, Michael was appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Brownfields Coalition, an affiliation of private and public sector stakeholders working in the U.S. Congress to advocate for improvements in environmental redevelopment policy and legislation.

Carmen Gonzalez

Carmen G. Gonzalez is an Associate Professor at Seattle University School of Law. She has published widely on the environmental and social justice implications of economic globalization. Her recent work examines the impact of free trade agreements on global food security, the developmental and environmental implications of China’s growing influence in Latin America, and the ways in which the legacy of colonialism in Latin America affects legal policy and practice. Her environmental justice articles include: The Global Food Crisis: Law, Politics and the Elusive Quest for Justice; China in Latin America: Law, Economics and Sustainable Development; Genetically Modified Organisms and Justice: the International Environmental Justice Implications of Biotechnology; and Environmental Impact Assessment in Post-Colonial Societies: Reflections on the Proposed Expansion of the Panama Canal. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Professor Gonzalez practiced environmental law for many years in the private sector and in government before becoming a law professor. She has worked on environmental law projects in Latin America and the former Soviet Union, taught environmental law in Argentina as a Fulbright Scholar, served as a Fellow at the U.S. Supreme Court, and taught environmental law in China. Professor Gonzalez has served as member and vice-chair of the International Subcommittee of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (an advisory body to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on environmental justice issues), and has represented non-governmental organizations in multilateral environmental treaty negotiations.
Cynthia Harris
Dr. Cynthia M. Harris is the Director of the Institute of Public Health at Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, Florida. Dr. Harris is a native of Kansas City, Kansas and attended the University of Kansas, where she received a B.A. (Honors) in Biology (1978) and an M.A. in Genetics (1981). She received her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from Meharry Medical College in 1985, with concentrations in the areas of nutritional biochemistry and toxicology. Dr. Harris was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in the Interdisciplinary Programs in Health of the Harvard School of Public Health, and she is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology (DABT). From 1990-1996, Dr. Harris served as a staff toxicologist and branch chief with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a sister agency of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in Atlanta, Georgia.

She is currently the Principal Investigator for the Jacksonville Racial and Ethnic Environmental Approaches to Community Health – An Environmental Health and Toxicology Education Program. In addition, she is the recent recipient of an award from the Blue Foundation, of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida to establish a coalition to reduce childhood obesity in Tallahassee, Florida. She is a member of the Agency or Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Board of Scientific Counselors, and the Association of Schools of Public Health Kellogg Racial and Ethnic Disparities Work Group. In October of 2007, she was appointed to the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board on the Exposure and Human Health Subcommittee. Her appointment is from October 2007 – December 2010.

Kim Jones, Esq.
Ms. Jones is an Assistant Regional Counsel for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 in Atlanta. Ms. Jones joined EPA in January 1997 and has worked primarily in the area of Superfund, although she has worked in other regulatory areas such as the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Oil Pollution Act (OPA). Ms. Jones negotiates multi million dollar cost recovery settlements, removal agreements, and remedial consent decrees. Ms. Jones previously served as a Co-Chair of the National Bar Association’s Section on Energy and the Environment.

Prior to joining EPA, Ms. Jones was an Assistant Regional Counsel for the Department of Treasury where she handled various cases including environmental matters. In addition, while working at the Department of Treasury, Ms. Jones was an Adjunct Professor at Tulane University where she taught an Environmental Law course. Prior to coming to the federal government, Ms. Jones was a criminal defense attorney in Chicago for five years where she tried criminal cases. She is admitted to the Illinois Bar. Ms. Jones received her B.A. from the University of Illinois-Champaign in 1985, a J.D. from Howard University in 1989 and her LL.M. degree in Energy and Environmental Law from Tulane University in 1994. Ms. Jones is married to Sheldon W. Snipe, a lawyer for AT&T, and they have two boys, Bradley and Spencer.
Jacki Lopez, Esq.
Jacki Lopez is a staff attorney in the San Francisco office of the Center for Biological Diversity. Her work focuses mainly on the enforcement of federal environmental law in the U.S. territories, but since April 20, 2010, she has spent the majority of her time trying to prevent another Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Since the tragic oil spill began, Jacki and the Center have brought eight different pieces of strategic litigation to prevent further damage from the current spill and prevent a future spill.

Using federal laws like the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, she and the Center have had both immediate and far reaching success in protecting endangered and threatened species in the Gulf of Mexico. For example, the Center and other environmental organizations were instrumental in stopping BP and the U.S. Coast Guard from burning sea turtles alive in their frantic efforts to clean up the oil. The Center has also played a pivotal role in getting the Department of the Interior to rethink its reckless practice of excluding oil and gas drilling from environmental review.

Marva King
Marva King is the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Grants Team Leader and Program Coordinator. Since June 2005, Ms. King has been working in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Air and Radiation. Previously, Marva worked for 10 years as a Senior Program Analyst in EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice managing the EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Her professional work has gained her sustainable connections throughout the country with a variety of stakeholders from community groups, business/industry, state/local/tribal government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and federal agencies. Ms. King recently received a 2010 Child Health Advocate Award from the Children’s Environmental Health Network in their community category. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Delaware and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University.
Catherine O’Neill
Professor O’Neill received her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame, and her J.D. from the University of Chicago. After graduating, she was named a Ford Foundation Graduate Fellow at Harvard Law School. She then worked for the Washington State Department of Ecology in the Air Quality Program before teaching at the University of Washington, the University of Arizona, and, currently, Seattle University. Professor O’Neill’s work focuses on issues of justice in environmental law and policy; in particular, her work considers the effects of contamination and depletion of fish and other resources relied upon by tribes and their members. She has worked with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council on its Fish Consumption Report; with various tribes in the Pacific Northwest and the Great Lakes on issues of contaminated fish and waters; and with environmental justice groups in the Southwest on air and water pollution issues. She was a pro bono consultant to the attorneys representing the National Congress of American Indians in New Jersey v. EPA, the case that successfully challenged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “Clean Air Mercury Rule.” She has twice testified before Congress on matters of mercury regulation. Professor O’Neill has published numerous scholarly articles and book chapters, including Mercury, Risk, and Justice (ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REPORTER, 2004); No Mud Pies: Risk Avoidance as Risk Regulation (VERMONT LAW REVIEW, 2007); and The Mathematics of Mercury in ALTERNATIVES TO REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS (Winston Harrington, et al., eds., 2009). She is a co-author, with Eileen Gauna and Clifford Rechtschaffen, of the textbook ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: LAW, POLICY & REGULATION (2d. ed. 2009).

Cynthia Peurifoy
Cynthia Peurifoy currently serves as the Environmental Justice Program Manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Office in Atlanta. Her Program’s mission is to ensure integration of environmental justice into regional programs and operations, including coordinating with Region 4 States on environmental justice issues. Her personal mission is to empower environmental justice community stakeholders to better participate in environmental decision-making and to foster efforts to achieve greater environmental and public health results for impacted communities. Ms. Peurifoy provides advice and guidance to regional management and staff, as well as a host of external stakeholders in an effort to address environmental justice concerns as they arise. Ms. Peurifoy’s career with EPA spans over 30 years. Cynthia has worked in various positions and program areas, including serving as a Community Involvement Coordinator in the Superfund Program, coordinating the Regional Response Team, working with the Community Right-to-Know Program, and working in the Office of Civil Rights. Ms. Peurifoy is a former member of the National Association of Public Participation Practitioners, and the 1998 recipient of the Superfund Community Involvement Coordinator of the Year Award, two other EPA National Notable Achievement Awards, and a Silver Medal. Ms. Peurifoy is the proud recipient of the 2009 National EPA Collaborative Problem-Solving Award presented by the newly appointed US EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, for her work with the ReGenesis Project in Spartanburg, SC. Most recently, she was honored by the Richmond County, Georgia Neighborhood Association Alliance in February 2010 and served as their Keynote Speaker at their Annual Scholarship Banquet. Ms. Peurifoy was honored by the Nu Lumda Omega Foundation of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in Atlanta, on April 17, 2010 with its “Women Rebuilding Communities and Creating a Sustainable Planet” Award.
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