

Florida A & M University Law Review

Volume 8

Number 2 *Climate Change and Global Food Security,
The Third Annual Environmental Law and Justice
Symposium Issue*

Article 2

Spring 2013

Third Annual Environmental Law And Justice Symposium Issue: Introduction

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Recommended Citation

Randall S. Abate & Richard D. Schulerbrandt Gragg III, *Third Annual Environmental Law And Justice Symposium Issue: Introduction*, 8 Fla. A&M U. L. Rev. (2013).

Available at: <http://commons.law.famu.edu/famulawreview/vol8/iss2/2>

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THE THIRD ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM ISSUE

INTRODUCTION

The Third Annual Environmental Law and Justice Symposium, “Climate Change and Global Food Security,” was held on November 1-3, 2012 on Florida A&M University’s main campus in Tallahassee, Florida. Hosted jointly by the School of the Environment, College of Law, and School of Agriculture and Food Sciences in partnership with the Tallahassee Food Network and the Southeastern Green Network, the event convened more than forty speakers and moderators in a three-day format that explored local, state, national, and international dimensions of climate change and food security. This symposium issue of the Florida A&M Law Review enhances what was already a major environmental justice event.

The event featured several keynote lectures from distinguished speakers on a wide variety of topics from multiple perspectives. The lecturers were Kenyon Farrow, Prof. Kwasi Densu, Dr. Qasimah Boston, Rashid Nuri, Prof. Claudio Lutzky, Mark Winne, and Dr. Mildred McClain. Distinguished speakers and moderators also addressed a broad range of interdisciplinary topics in several panels, including “Urban Agriculture in Underserved Communities”; “The Economics of Food Security”; “Regulatory Tools to Combat the Climate Change Crisis”; “Workforce Issues and Local Food Access”; and “Climate Change, Food Security, and Arctic Indigenous Peoples.” In addition, a roundtable discussion addressed “Global Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities in Feeding Future Generations.”

The symposium also featured several unique and memorable dimensions, including a tour of community gardens in Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Food Conversation, and the First Annual “Sustainable U” Summit and Poster Competition. Jonathan Norville provided spoken word entertainment and the Tuta Ola Cultural Performance Collective provided music and dance. A poignant addition to the symposium was the display of the Lake Apopka Farmworker Memorial Quilts, prepared as a tribute to the lives of deceased farmworkers who worked the muck farms on Lake Apopka in Central Florida.

The symposium would not have been possible without the generous support of its external sponsors: City of Tallahassee, Wells Fargo Bank, Environmental and Land Use Law Section of the Florida

Bar, Southeastern Green Network, Tallahassee Food Network, The Food Conversation, and Leon County Tourist Development Council. The following student organizations at Florida A&M University also sponsored the event: Environmental Law Society, PRodigy Public Relations Firm, FAMU Green Coalition, Environmental Sciences Student Organization, Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity, FAMU Law Review, and the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.

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