

# **DIGNITY RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**A symposium to explore environmental justice  
through the lens of human dignity**

**Delaware Law School**  
4601 Concord Pike  
Wilmington, DE 19803

Presented by  
**Widener Law Review**  
**Dignity Rights Project**

Co-Sponsored by ABA Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice (for Livestreaming), Coming Clean, Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice, Delaware Law School Environmental Rights Institute, Earthjustice, Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment, Environmental Justice Health Alliance, NYC Bar Task Force on Climate Adaptation, and with generous support from the First State Fund.

**April 12, 2018**

Barristers' Club

**2:00-5:00 Environmental Justice Assembly** (Open to the Public)

**6:30 Welcome Dinner** (Overnight Guests Meet in Hotel Lobby at 6:15)

**April 13, 2018**

Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom, Main Law Building

**8:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 Welcome & Opening Remarks**

**Tricia Kazinetz**, Widener Law Review

**Rodney A. Smolla**, Dean and Professor of Law, Delaware Law School (by video)

**The Honorable Michael S. Purzycki**, Mayor of Wilmington, DE

**Erin Daly**, Delaware Law School, Symposium Co-Chair,  
"Environmental Dignity Rights"

**James R. May**, Delaware Law School, Symposium Co-Chair,  
"Environmental Justice, Locally and Globally"

**9:45 Dignity in Place: A Conversation about Environmental Justice in Our Communities**

**Moderator: Loyd Bastin, Widener University**

1. **Michele Roberts**, Environmental Justice Health Alliance,  
"Why it Matters to Legacy: Losing Communities to Toxic Pollution and Disasters"

2. **Gina Luster**, Flint Rising, "A Call To Protect Our Water and Our Human Rights" (Appearance supported by the Africana Studies Program at the University of Delaware)

3. **Viola ("Vi") Waghiyi**, Environmental Health and Justice Program, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, "Pulling Teeth from a Live Polar Bear"

**10:45**

**Break**

**11:00 Dignity-Advancing Policies: Governmental Responses to Environmental Injustice**

**Moderator: Lisa Goodman**, Hamilton Goodman

1. **Nicky Sheats**, Thomas Edison University, "Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Justice"
2. **Scott Badenoch**, Environmental Law Institute and ABA Environmental Justice Committee, "The Development of Environmental Justice and Dignity in Law"
3. **Marva King**, Office of Environmental Justice, EPA (retired), "Solving Environmental Injustices Through Collaborative Partnerships"

**12:00 Legal Approaches to Environmental Justice Abroad**

**Moderator: Ken Kristl**, Delaware Law School

1. **Stephen Kass**, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, "Responses to Climate Migrants: Helping Rural and Urban Residents of Developing Countries Remain or Return Home"
2. **Joep Dayo**, Delaware Law School: "Constitutional Rights to Environmental Dignity in Nigeria"
3. **Nadia Ahmad**, Barry University School of Law: "Environmental Justice, Water Hazards, and Biofuels: A Comparative Analysis of Puerto Rico, Pakistan, and the Philippines" (Remote)
4. **Dina Townsend**, Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment, and University of Tilburg, "Indigenous descriptions of the world and consultation that silences" (Remote)

**1:00 Lunch** (Barristers' Club)

**1:30** Delaware Attorney General, **The Honorable Matt Denn**, Introducing Distinguished Speaker, **The Honorable Bernice B. Donald**, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, "Dignity and Human Rights on Trial: In the Shadow of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment"

## **2:15 Dignity in The Classroom: Teaching and Learning about Environmental Justice**

**Moderator: Alicia Kelly**, Delaware Law School

1. **Helen Kang**, Golden Gate University School of Law, "Community Narratives: Dignity Rights to Tell Environmental Justice Stories" (Remote)
2. **Rose-Gaëlle Desiral**, Université de la Fondation Aristide: "University Youth, Key Players in the Construction of Eco-Citizenship for Better Environmental Justice"
3. **Marianne Engelman Lado**, Yale Law School, "Environmental Justice and the Devaluation of Human Life"
4. **Quentin Pair**, Howard University School of Law and Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Div. (former): "The Role Of Dignity/Human Rights In Advancing Environmental Justice In The United States"

**3:30 Break**

## **3:45 Complex Litigation to Advance Environmental Dignity Rights**

**Moderator: Jon Greenbaum**, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

1. **Patrice Simms**, Earthjustice, "Barriers to Getting into Court"
2. **Sienna Merope**, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, "Death and Dignity in Haiti: Cholera Victims' Search for Justice from the United Nations"
3. **Al Huang**, Natural Resources Defense Council, "Framing Environmental Justice in a Rights Context for Litigation"
4. **Mike Gerrard**, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, "The Rights of Peoples Displaced by Climate Change: What Society Should Do, and What the Courts Can Do"

**5:00 Closing Discussion**

**Moderators: Erin Daly**, Delaware Law School and **James R. May**, Delaware Law School

**5:30 Adjourn**