New Directions in Environmental Law
2018 Conference

Centering Justice

March 3rd, 2018 · Yale Law School

A space to build coalitions for promoting environmental equity, indigenous rights, healthy lands and water, youth organizing, climate justice, animal rights, creative activism, and gender equity.

Register at: ndel.yale.edu
NDEL 2018: Centering Justice

We’re putting justice at the center of this year’s New Directions in Environmental Law Conference.

We believe the environmental movement must focus on justice in order to build a flourishing earth community. “NDEL 2018: Centering Justice” will bring together speakers and participants passionate about indigenous rights, fighting environmental racism, healthy lands and water, youth organizing, climate justice, animal rights, LGBTQ+ activism, and gender equity. Our movement toward an equitable global society and thriving earth must be grounded in community and grow in intersectionality.

“NDEL 2018: Centering Justice” is a space for energizing our work through principles of anti-oppression, inclusion, and coalition-building.

Thank you for joining us.

About NDEL

Environmental law addresses some of the most complex challenges of our time, from clean air and water, to endangered species conservation, to environmental justice and climate change. As a relatively new field, it is constantly expanding and evolving, reflecting our increased focus on the impact of human activities on the natural world.

In 2010, Yale’s New Directions in Environmental Law conference was inaugurated as a space to discuss novel approaches to the practice of environmental law and the creation of environmental policy. By combining academics and practitioners under one roof, NDEL brought together a new community to together discuss – and solve – environmental challenges.

New Directions in Environmental Law is an annual student-run conference organized jointly between the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and the Yale Law School. It is an ongoing conversation between high-level practitioners, academics, and the next generation of environmental and policy leaders.
8:00 - 8:30a  Registration (Room 122)/Coffee (Dining Hall)

8:30 - 9:00a  Introductory Remarks (Auditorium)

9:00 - 9:45a  Opening Keynote Address (Auditorium)
               Varshini Prakash - Climate Organizer - Sunrise Movement

10:00 - 11:15a Breakout Session 1:
               Environmental and Energy Justice Issues Arising out of Hydraulic Fracturing and Domestic Oil & Gas Development (Room 127)
               Incarceration and Environmental Justice (Room 120)
               Long-term Recovery & Resiliency Post Disaster: Insights from Miami & Puerto Rico (Room 129)

11:15 - 12:30p Keynote Panel: Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Justice (Auditorium)

12:30 - 1:30p  Lunch (Available for pick-up in the Dining Hall)

1:30 - 2:15p  Afternoon Keynote Address (Auditorium)
               Eddie Bautista - Executive Director - NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

2:15 - 3:30p  Breakout Session 2:
               Community Lawyering for Environmental Justice in New York City’s Public Schools (Room 120)
               Climate Policy Platform to Fight Climate Change & Build a Just & Equitable Economy (Room 129)
               #FreedomWork: The QTPOC Experience in Environmental Justice (Room 127)

3:45 - 5:00p  Breakout Session 3:
               Global Climate Justice: International and Youth Perspectives (Room 127)
               Hurricanes, Environmental Justice, Climate Change & Energy Infrastructure Resiliency: A Case Analysis of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria & Nate (Room 120)
               Widening the Wild: Achieving Equity in Conservation Practice in African Landscapes (Room 129)

5:00 - 5:30p  Coffee Break (Dining Hall)

5:30 - 6:15p  Closing Keynote Address (Auditorium)
               Mustafa Ali - Senior Vice President of Climate, Environmental Justice & Community Revitalization – Hip Hop Caucus

6:30 - 7:30p  Reception (Kroon Hall, 3rd Floor, 195 Prospect Street)
Varshini Prakash

Varshini was born and raised outside Boston, MA. She joined the climate movement as an undergraduate at UMass Amherst where she lead and won a campaign to divest her university from fossil fuels. She coordinated divestment campaigns at a regional and national level for four years. Varshini then went on to a co-founded Sunrise, a movement of young people working to end the fossil fuel industry's corruption of our political system and elect leaders who will stand for our health, home and safety. She currently serves as the Communications Director.

Monika Ehrman

MONIKA U. EHRMAN is Associate Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Oil & Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Center (ONE C) at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Her scholarly interests are in the area of oil and gas real property issues, the intersection between law and petroleum technology, and energy policy. Her courses, past and present, include Oil & Gas Law, Energy Law, Water Law, International Petroleum Transactions, Property, Oil & Gas Contracts, Oil & Gas Environmental Law, and Energy Negotiations. She currently teaches in the J.D. and graduate programs at OU Law and in the Executive Energy Management Program at the OU Price College of Business.

Prior to teaching, she served as general counsel of a privately-held oil and gas company in Dallas; senior counsel with Pioneer Natural Resources; and associate attorney at Locke Lord LLP. Her practice experience includes oil and gas litigation and energy transactional work. Before law school, Professor Ehrman worked as a petroleum engineer in the upstream, midstream, and pipeline sectors of the energy industry. In addition to her experience with the technical aspects of the industry, she also worked as an analyst in the areas of commodity risk management and energy trading. She is a Trustee for the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and Energy & Mineral Law Foundation and a delegate on the Educational Advisory Board for the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators. In addition to serving on various oil and gas law committees, she also served as an Editor of the Oil and Gas Reporter for the Institute for Energy Law. She is the faculty advisor to the Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal (ONE J), published by The University of Oklahoma College of Law. Professor Ehrman received her B.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Alberta; J.D. from SMU Dedman School of Law; and Master’s in Law from Yale Law School. During law school, she was Research Assistant to Professor John Lowe at SMU and to the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy.
Marissa Knodel

Marissa Knodel is an Associate Legislative Counsel with Earthjustice’s Policy & Legislation team in Washington, D.C., where she works on campaigns and policies to stop new fossil fuel development on public lands and waters, and mitigate the adverse impacts of such development on frontline communities.

Marissa has a B.A. from Dartmouth College in Environmental Studies and Public Policy, and a dual J.D. and Master of Environmental Management degree from Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Her graduate research focused on the justice and legal implications of permanent relocation as a climate adaptation strategy, which took her to the United Nations climate negotiations in Qatar as part of the Grenada delegation, and to Alaska where she spent time in the Native Village of Kivalina.

Josh Galperin

Josh Galperin is Director of the Environmental Protection Clinic, Lecturer in Law, and a Research Scholar at Yale Law School. Josh is also a lecturer and the Environmental Law and Policy Program Director at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (F&ES). In addition to directing and teaching the Environmental Protection Clinic, Josh directs the dual law-environment degree program between F&ES and Pace, Vermont, and Yale law schools. He is also a lead collaborator in the Land Use Collaborative. His research addresses the law of takings and just compensation; the law and policy of invasive species management, the role of environmentalism in environmental policymaking, food law and policy, and instrument choice among non-governmental organizations. Prior to his current role, Josh was the associate director for the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy where he oversaw all operations of the Center including budgeting, fundraising, research, and teaching.
Amy Pickle

Amy Pickle directs the State Policy Program at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. She focuses on state and local roles in developing energy resources; the interaction among federal, state, and local water management policies; the role of water utilities in green infrastructure implementation; and local governments’ efforts to adapt to climate change and improve urban sustainability. Pickle holds a J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a bachelor’s degree in English and another one in chemistry from the University of Florida.

Nicole Donaghy

Nicole Montclair-Donaghy (Kampeska Cinkila Win’, Little Shell Woman) is a Hunkpapa Lakota from the Standing Rock Sioux Nation. Nicole was raised in Fort Yates, North Dakota located in the heart of the Standing Rock Reservation.

Nicole is a graduate of United Tribes Technical College where she started organizing for tribal college and universities and students’ rights through student government. She has worked on environmental protection efforts and awareness since.

Nicole is a Field organizer for grassroots group, Dakota Resource Council (DRC) located in Bismarck, North Dakota. Nicole took on staffing DRC’s Oil and Gas Task Force working on oil and gas issues in the Bakken, and coordinated the organization’s legislative efforts. She also staffs and helped organize the inception of DRC’s first Native American affiliate Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER).

Nicole and POWER’s members organized the first study in North Dakota on the harmful effects of brine spills in the Bakken through Duke University. Other projects include capturing and documenting toxic emissions coming from oil field infrastructure with Forward Looking InfraRed—FLIR cameras and supporting federal legislation such as the Bureau of Land Management’s Methane Waste Prevention Rule. Currently, Nicole continues her work as a Field Organizer for Fort Berthold POWER as well as the Communications Coordinator for Dakota Resource Council.
Alana Greer

Alana Greer co-founded the Community Justice Project, Inc. in 2015. She was previously a staff attorney at Florida Legal Services and Advancement Project in Washington, DC, where she worked with youth and parent leaders across the nation to fighting to end the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Originally from Miami, Alana left Florida to attend Boston College and Harvard Law School, where she was a student attorney at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, and returned home to support youth organizing that arose after the killing of Trayvon Martin.

Prior to law school, she was a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and worked with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area against the criminalization of homelessness. Alana is passionate about lifting up the voices of the community members she works with and using her legal and analytic skills to support grassroots movements seeking to dismantle structural racism and inequality. She is an Echoing Green Black Male Achievement Fellow and an advisory board member for the Dream Defenders and Law for Black Lives.

Jesús Vázquez Negrón

Jesús Vázquez Negrón has worked for the past 12 years organizing alternative participatory methods for diverse under represented rural and urban communities. Vázquez, studied Law, Journalism and Humanities in the University of Puerto Rico and has worked on the intersection between environmental justice, advocacy, agroecology, political activism and social movement building with communities, organizations, collectives and farmers. He works with the National Association of Environmental Law of Puerto Rico and is the Coordinator of Organización Boricuá of Ecological Agriculture of Puerto Rico, 28 year old grassroots organization that is Chapter of La Vía Campesina and the Climate Justice Alliance. He has been working from the ground for the last six months on Post-hurricane Irma and María self-recovery and decentralized mutual support efforts.
Nancy Metayer

Nancy Metayer is an environmentalist, water advocate, humanitarian and community organizer. She is currently the Climate Justice Organizer for The New Florida Majority. As an avid believer in social justice, Nancy supports causes around equity and environmental issues plaguing marginalized communities. Nancy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from Florida A&M University and Master of Health Science degree in Environmental Health Sciences from Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Having spent the past 10 years working for government agencies and nonprofit organizations both domestically and internationally, Nancy promoted programs that improve environmental conditions, water, sanitation, public health and education. Nancy worked on the 2015 Continuing Promise Mission; a collaboration between NGOs based in Haiti, the Haitian Government and the United States Navy USNS Comfort that provided public health services to Haitians. She also advocated for vulnerable communities impacted by the Flint Water Crisis. Lastly, Nancy has always pushed for progress and through activism she is determined to encourage others to feel the same way.

Melissa Legge

Melissa Legge is an Equal Justice Works fellow at Earthjustice’s Northeast Office in New York. Her fellowship project aims to use the power of environmental law to fight for environmental justice for the incarcerated. Melissa received her law degree from Yale Law School and a Master’s of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in May 2017.

While in law school, Melissa spent summers at Earthjustice, the public interest energy law firm Spiegel & McDiarmid, and Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. During the school year, she was student in the Environmental Justice Clinic, a teaching fellow in the Environmental Protection Clinic, and a co-Director of the Temporary Restraining Order Project. Prior to law school, Melissa was an organizer at the consulting firm Grassroots Solutions in Minneapolis, Minnesota, working on federal energy and agricultural policy and other progressive campaigns.
Bryant Arroyo

Bryant Arroyo is a prisoner at the State Correctional Institution in Frackville, PA. He is a jail house lawyer, and jailhouse environmentalists. While behind bars, Arroyo mobilized and organized an unprecedented 902 inmates to successfully protest/defeat an $800 million dollar coal-gasification plant that was going to be built 300 feet from center point of the yard at SCI-Mahanoy, a state prison in Pennsylvania. Now he is organizing fellow prisoners regarding ongoing drinking water problems at SCI-Frackville.

Lill Prosperino

Lill Prosperino is a nonbinary transgender community organizer and activist from the hills and hollers of Southeastern Kentucky. They organize with several grassroots collectives including the Letcher Governance Project, The Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons, The Holler Network, and the STAY Project. Recently, they have worked alongside other activists to oppose the construction of a federal prison on the site of a former mountaintop removal coal mine in Letcher County, Kentucky.

Their interests lie in antifascism and antiracism, mental health infrastructure outside of the treatment industrial complex, and prison abolition and prisoner solidarity. They have a master’s of education degree in mental health counseling and a dual bachelor of arts in Psychology and Philosophy. They also really like the ninja turtles, dogs and cats, and karaoke.

Candice Bernd

Candice Bernd is an editor/staff reporter at Truthout, and a contributor to Truthout's anthology on police violence, Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? With her partner, she wrote and produced Don't Frack With Denton, a documentary chronicling how their hometown became the first city to ban fracking in Texas, and its subsequent overturn in the state legislature. She received the Dallas Peace and Justice Center’s "Media Accountability of the Year" award in December. Follow her on Twitter: @CandiceBernd.
Catherine Iorns Magallanes

Catherine Iorns Magallanes is a Reader in the School of Law at Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand, on environmental law, indigenous rights, and statutory interpretation. Prof Iorns is also a national board member of Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand and the Academic Adviser to the NZ Council of Legal Education. She is a member of the International Law Association Committee on the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, and she holds an LLM from Yale Law School.

She has previously been a New Zealand National Board member of 350 Aotearoa, as well as of Environment and Conservation Organisations Inc New Zealand. In her Environmental Law classes she includes sessions on community building, protest and civil disobedience, and on possible radical alternatives to our current legal and economic systems.

Professor Rebecca Tsosie is Regents Professor of Law at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law with the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy (IPLP) Program and Special Advisor to the Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion for the University of Arizona. She has extensive experience working with tribal communities across Indian Country and currently serves as appellate judge for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation's Supreme Court and San Carlos Apache Tribe's Court of Appeals. Professor Tsosie teaches in the areas of property, federal Indian law, and tribal law and policy.

In her role as special advisor, Tsosie helps advance diversity and inclusion in academic affairs, working collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students to advance cultural competency in the classroom and academic affairs. Tsosie's research interests include tribal self-determination within the U.S. constitutional framework, environmental justice for tribal communities, and intellectual property rights to cultural resources. She has previously taught courses across the IPLP curriculum, on federal Indian law, tribal cultural resource law, bioethics, and critical race theory. She is co-author of the federal Indian law casebook AMERICAN INDIAN LAW: NATIVE NATIONS AND THE FEDERAL SYSTEM.
Michelle L. Cook is human rights lawyer born of the Honagháahnii (One Who Walks Around You) Clan of the Diné (Navajo) Nation. For several years, Michelle has worked locally and globally with indigenous peoples on issues such as access to justice, customary law, and human rights. She has received major grants and fellowship opportunities including a Fulbright Fellowship to study indigenous justice and customary legal systems in Aotearoa (New Zealand).

She is a founding member of the Water Protector Legal Collective creating legal infrastructure for indigenous peoples encamped in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. She created an intersectional indigenous-led divestment campaign “The Indigenous Women’s Divestment Delegation to Europe” calling for European banks and institutions to divest from companies industries that harm indigenous peoples and to support indigenous human rights and divestment from fossil fuels. She was appointed as a Commissioner on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and received her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from the University of New Mexico School of Law with a certificate in Federal Indian law. She is a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) Candidate at the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program.

Eddie Bautista

Eddie Bautista is an award-winning community organizer and urban planner. In February 2010, Eddie resigned as Director of the Mayor’s Office of City Legislative Affairs to take the reins at NYC-EJA. The Mayor’s Office of City Legislative Affairs is the Mayor’s local lobbying office representing the Mayor and City agencies at the City Council, and serving as liaison between the Bloomberg Administration and the Comptroller, Public Advocate and Borough Presidents. As Director, Eddie spearheaded efforts to pass several major pieces of legislation, including the City’s 20-year landmark Solid Waste Management Plan (which relied for the first time on principles of environmental justice and borough equity).

Eddie also facilitated meetings for policy advocates with Administration officials on a range of legislative and regulatory initiatives such as PlaNYC 2030 (NYC’s environmental sustainability plan, which has become an international model for large cities) and Mayoral Executive Order 120 of 2008, which for the first time called for all City agencies to make services and documents available to immigrant New Yorkers in the top six languages spoken in the City. Previously, Eddie was the Director of Community Planning for NY Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), where he served as the lobbying/communications/community organizing director for this non-profit civil rights law firm. At NYLPI, Eddie organized numerous grassroots coalitions and campaigns, including the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods (OWN) and Communities United for Responsible Energy (CURE).
Christine Appah

Christine Appah is a senior staff attorney in the Environmental Justice Program. Her work focuses on urban environmental health issues and sustainability. Her dedication to environmental justice was inspired by her work in an undergraduate research program on childhood asthma rates and air quality at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. She began her legal career as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society where she worked to preserve safe and affordable housing for vulnerable families. As a staff attorney, Christine engaged in litigation, legislative advocacy and community outreach. Prior to joining NYLPI, Christine served as a regional director at the New York State Division of Human Rights. Christine graduated magna cum laude from The City College of New York and earned her law degree from Duke University School of Law.

Claire Barnett

Claire L. Barnett, MBA, Founder and Executive Director, grew Healthy Schools Network from its roots in New York into the nation’s premier voice for children’s environmental health at school by advancing a comprehensive policy agenda, fostering state and local environmental health coalitions across the country, and securing landmark reforms in states and federally.

A social entrepreneur, her previous work includes reporting for TIME Magazine in New York City, administering rural New York health services, and assisting Adirondack Park communities with sustainable development. She shifted her focus to children’s environmental health in the aftermath of her child’s pesticide exposure at school. Barnett has an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (health systems finance) and a BA from Mount Holyoke College (psychology/political science). In 2017, she was honored to receive the William K. Reilly Award for environmental leadership and innovation from American University School of Public Policy.
Cecil Corbin-Mark

Cecil Corbin-Mark is WE ACT for Environmental Justice’s (WE ACT) Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives. He holds a BA from Hunter College in Political Science and a M. Phil. in International Relations from Oxford University in England. Prior to joining WE ACT, Cecil worked for the following: the Bronx County District Attorney, NYS Justice Hon. W. T. Martin, the Mellon Minority Scholars Program and the NY Public Library.

He currently serves on the following boards: Center for Environmental Health, Clean and Healthy New York, the Louis E. Burnham Fund, the West Harlem Development Corporation, and Friends of the Earth USA. He was the recipient of the 2010 Earth Day New York Award. Cecil is a father, a pilot and lives in the Hamilton Heights section of West Harlem in NYC, his family’s home for almost 90 years. He comes from a family that was actively engaged in the Civil Rights movement. His great uncle and aunt Louis E., and Dorothy Burnham moved from Harlem to Birmingham, AL to launch the Southern Negro Youth Congress and his cousin represented professor and Civil Rights activist, Angela Y. Davis, in her trial for kidnapping, murder and conspiracy.

Rachel Spector

Rachel Spector is the Director of the Environmental Justice Program at NYLPI, where she leads NYLPI’s work to address disparities in environmental and health conditions in low-income communities and communities of color in and around New York City. Before joining NYLPI, she was a Clinical Visiting Assistant Professor at Fordham Law School, where she co-taught the Community Economic Development Clinic and supervised law students providing legal assistance to prominent national workers’ centers, local community organizations, and worker cooperatives.

Previously, she was an attorney at Mobilization for Justice (formerly MFY Legal Services) representing low-income workers and tenants and a law clerk to the Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin in the Southern District of New York. Rachel received her J.D. from The City University of New York School of Law, where she was a Haywood Burns Fellow for Civil and Human Rights, and her B.A. from Barnard College.
Adrien Salazar

Adrien Salazar is an organizer, political ecologist, and writer who advocates for just and regenerative visions of our economies and environment, led by communities. He is a Campaign Strategist with Dēmos, where he works to advance climate change policy that centers racial and economic equity through partnerships with local, state, and national movement partners. Adrien has also supported transnational environmental justice campaigns with the Filipino American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity for over eight years. He has conducted local policy advocacy with the Sierra Club in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has worked with Green for All, the Sustainable Economies Law Center, and the World Resources Institute.

Adrien has researched the global carbon benefit of indigenous land management practices as a Project Drawdown Research Fellow. His research contributed to the Indigenous People’s Land Management chapter of Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever to Reverse Global Warming (2017, Penguin Press). He is a Fellow with the 2016 inaugural cohort of the University of Michigan Environmental Fellows Program. Adrien is from San Jose, California and Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines. He holds his Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and enjoys hiking, running, gardening, and visiting the sacred places of the earth.

Evan Weber

Evan Weber is a climate justice advocate and progressive movement builder born and raised on the island of Oahu in Hawai‘i, where his home community is seeing the effects of climate change first hand. He is one of the co-founders of the Sunrise movement, which is building an army of young people to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. Prior to helping launch Sunrise, Evan co-founded and served as the Executive Director of U.S. Climate Plan, which advocated for comprehensive national and state climate policies in line with what was demanded by science and justice.

Policy proposals he and his team put forth were codified into law by agencies like the EPA and adopted by 2016 Presidential candidates as a part of their platforms. Evan has been featured in Newsweek, The Huffington Post, ThinkProgress, Al Jazeera, and on Thom Hartmann’s “The Big Picture.” In 2017, Evan was named as one of the #Grist50, Grist Magazine’s annual list of 50 emerging US green leaders to watch. In 2016 he was named as one of 85 global “Emerging Catalysts” for social change by the social movement organization Rhize.
Shiva Prakash

Shiva is a Staff Attorney and Equal Justice Works fellow sponsored by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld at NYLPI where her work centers on addressing the legal barriers to community-owned renewable energy and other climate justice and energy democracy oriented campaigns in New York City and State. During law school, Shiva completed legal internships at the Natural Resources Defense Council, New York State Office of the Attorney General, Conservation Law Foundation, and a judicial internship with the Honorable Judge Thompson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Prior to her legal career, Shiva worked at New Ecology Inc., a Boston-based non-profit, where she was a project manager on affordable and public housing projects incorporating energy efficiency and renewable energy systems. Shiva received her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law where she was a Public Interest Law Scholar, a Master’s in City Planning (MCP) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and a B.S. in Economics also from MIT.

Anthony Torres

Anthony Torres is a climate activist whose work focuses on building cross-movement power to challenge the dominant structures of extraction, exploitation, and extinction. He’s led political action against fossil fuels at COP21 and 23 in Paris and Bonn, collaborated with frontline communities from his home state of New York and Washington, DC to the Ecuadorian Amazon, coordinated the Sierra Club’s successful field campaign against the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and organizes strategic interventions against corrupt politicians to advance a people-centered agenda.

He is currently a Campaign Representative at Sierra Club and has recently be featured as one of Grist.org’s Top 50 Fixers for 2017 and as a Brower Youth Award winner for his efforts to build a united, multiracial front.
Eb Brown

Eb Brown, M.S.W (he/they) (Moderator) has developed curriculum and executed trainings for Pan- Harvard LGBTQ Conference, Northern California Kaiser Permanente, Bay Area Association of Black Social Workers, San Francisco County Human Services Agency, and Gender Spectrum on topics such as creating evidence based interventions, team building, intersectionality, LGBTQI inclusion, Queer and Trans Liberation, and leadership development. This year Eb. launched Trans*Visible, an initiative designed to increase the visibility of Trans* people and their work across social justice movements. You can learn more about this project at transvisiblehub.com and contact Eb. directly at carestrategicvision@gmail.com.

Afia Walking Tree

Afia Walking Tree, M.Ed (She, Her). For 30 years, Afia Walking Tree has been growing healing justice movement prioritizing drumming, community activism, and social permaculture at public actions, rallies, and conferences. Afia and Spirit Drumz performed at Song for All Being, Blessed Unrest, the Haas Jr. Institute's Othering and Belonging conference, and the 2016 TEDWomen opening reception. As a leader in drum-permaculture Afia was invited to be an instructor for R.O.O.T.S. Permaculture Design Course, North American Permaculture Convergence, and Ogala Lakota Indigenous Wisdom Permaculture Convergence. A long time member of the Bioneers family, she for six years she has been featured on the main stage doing Drum Java. You can learn more about Afia Walking Tree at AfiaWalkingTree.com.

Cris Izaguirre

Cris immigrated with their family as a child from Nicaragua and grew up in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Seeing first-hand the impact of food insecurity and structural racism in their community has made them keenly aware of the necessity to address intersections of race, class, gender. Cris holds a certificate in Ecological Horticulture from the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at UCSC, he apprenticed on the Big Island of Hawaii with indigenous Hawaiian elders and taught at the local Honaunau Elementary School gardening classes. And even at KCC Urban Farm’s early days as a farm assistant pre and post hurricane Sandy. Cris has worked for LGBTQ rights organizations including Lambda Legal, El/La Para Translatinhas and CUAV (Community United Against Violence) both as direct service staff and in program coordination. Cris is currently the KCC Urban Farm Manager where he works teaching students from seed to harvest through a social justice lens.
Dyanna is an organization-builder and movement strategist with eight years of experience in the climate movement. In her home state, Dyanna co-founded the Virginia Student Environmental Coalition, which offered training and coordination to student campaigns for climate justice across Virginia. After the 2016 Elections, Dyanna co-founded Sunrise — a movement of young people with a 4-year plan to expose the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics and elect a new generation of leaders who will fight for us. Dyanna is the Distributed Organizing Director with Sunrise, working with dozens of youth leaders to push hundreds of candidates to reject campaign contributions from Fossil Fuel executives, because when our government is beholden to people, not polluters, we can finally unite to take on the challenge of our generation.

As a climate change and human rights activist, Victoria has marched in solidarity with more than 400,000 people at the People’s Climate March in New York City, traveled to Paris to attend and speak at the COP 21 UN Conference on Climate Change, and organized her peers in local frontline climate campaigns. Most recently, she spoke at the United Nations headquarters in New York City for the High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Victoria is currently a plaintiff in the Our Children’s Trust climate change lawsuit Juliana v. U.S. against the federal government for their role in failing to protect the rights of young people to life, liberty and property.

Michél has seen firsthand the ways that transnational corporations and their interests exploit and exacerbate societal inequalities and injustices — here in the U.S., in the Caribbean, and around the world. His desire to take on that power led him to work as an action league organizer at Corporate Accountability, where he recruits, trains, and partners with members and activists around the country to take action. He helps build their leadership to work for long-term social change. These Action League members advance campaigns at the local, national, and international levels to challenge corporate power on issues of climate, water, food, our democracy, and public health.
Nadia Ahmad

Nadia B. Ahmad is an Assistant Professor at Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law. Professor Ahmad’s research explores the intersections of energy siting, the environment, and sustainable development and draws on international investment law and corporate social responsibility. Prior to joining the Barry Law faculty, Professor Ahmad was the inaugural Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Law at Pace Law School. Professor Ahmad earned an undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature with language emphases in Latin and English from the University of California at Berkeley with high honors.

She completed her law degree (J.D.) from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she was a Virgil Hawkins Fellowship recipient. Later, she earned a masters of law (LL.M.) in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she explored the legal barriers for the deployment of advanced renewable technologies in the Global South and worked on the editorial review of the Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the ABA Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice’s Environmental Justice Committee, which was presented with the 2016-2017 ABA Committee Excellence Award. She is an official expert for the multilateral development organization, International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) Taskforce on Bamboo for Renewable Energy (TFB4RE), which promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. Professor Ahmad is a member of the state bars of Florida and Colorado.

Ashley Broussard

Ashley Broussard is a paralegal at the Florida Legal Advocacy Group, P.A. She completed her law degree at Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in December 2017. She has also worked as a judicial extern for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court in Florida. During law school, she served as a volunteer for Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Ms. Broussard obtained her bachelor’s degree in Legal Studies summa cum laude at Florida Gulf Coast University.
Matthew Alas

Matthew Alas studied at the University of Central Florida, where he received a B.S. in Legal Studies with a specialization in litigation and advocacy. He then began his legal education at Barry University School of Law, where he anticipates completing his Juris Doctor degree in 2018. He developed a love for the environment at a young age, but his passion for the subject developed further after he enrolled in his first environmental course, Comparative Environmental Law, while studying abroad in Spain. He is the Vice President of the Environmental Law Society at Barry. He will be presenting on “The Future of Sustainable Energy: A Framework for Harnessing the Power of Rooftop Solar.”

Jim Karani Riungu

Jim is Africa’s first Animal Lawyer and the current Head of Legal Affairs Manager at WildlifeDirect Inc, a nonprofit organization working in Kenya to change hearts, minds and laws to transform conservation results in Kenya. Jim leads the Eyes in the Courtroom project that champions for transparency and accountability in the prosecution of wildlife crime and protection of Africa’s endangered wildlife species. He has been involved in the prosecution of high profile wildlife traffickers and the training, prosecutors, investigators, rangers and frontline wildlife law enforcement officials on best practices to strengthen their response to wildlife crime.

He also is the developer of iCourtroom, Kenya’s first digital wildlife crime offenders’ database, that follows up on wildlife crime cases, recidivism and repeat offenders. He also supports public interest litigation targeting environmental crimes perpetuated by government construction projects.
Mustafa Santiago Ali is a renowned national speaker, policy maker, community liaison, trainer, and facilitator. Mr. Ali specializes in social and environmental justice issues and is focused on a utilizing a holistic approach to revitalizing vulnerable communities. He joined the Hip Hop Caucus, after working 24 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where he most recently served as Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization. Throughout his career he has worked with over 500 domestic and international communities to improve people’s lives by addressing environmental, health, and economic justice issues.

Mr. Ali worked for EPA Administrators beginning with William Riley and ending with Scott Pruitt. He joined the EPA as a student and became a founding member of the EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ). He elevated environmental justice issues and worked across federal agencies to strengthen environmental justice policies, programs and initiatives. Mustafa Ali has been a Guest Lecturer at Harvard and Yale University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Spelman College, Albany Law School and Howard University School of Law.

He is a former instructor at West Virginia University and Stanford University in Washington, and the former co-host of the “Spirit in Action” radio show which focused on social justice issues. Mustafa has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, VICE, Democracy NOW. He has also been featured in the Washington Post, GQ Magazine and cited in over 100 publications. Since resigning from the EPA in March of 2017, he has conducted over 150 interviews.
NDEL 2018 Leadership

Maggie Barnes

Maggie is a dual-degree JD/MEM student with Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. While on campus, she participated in Yale’s Environmental Protection and Environmental Justice Clinics; she is currently clerking for NRDC’s San Francisco litigation team. Maggie loves biking, trail running, and spending time in the mountains.

Chelsea Bowling

Chelsea is a third-year JD student at the Yale Law School, and part of the law school’s Environmental Justice Clinic. She has spent her summers at the Sierra Club and Earthjustice, and plans to continue to pursue justice-focused environmentalism after graduation. In her free time she likes hiking, ice skating, and learning to play banjo.

Ama Francis

Ama is a third-year JD student at Yale Law School, and a native of Dominica. She focuses on climate change policy for small island states, and serves environmental justice communities as part of Yale’s Environmental Justice Clinic. After graduation, she plans to work on climate migration and advocate for Caribbean countries as a Sabin Center for Climate Change Law & Policy Fellow. Ama is a yoga devotee, fiction writer, and an avid lover of waterfalls.

Leehi Yona

Leehi Yona is a Master of Environmental Science candidate at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she is researching the ecological and political dimensions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Program. She is interested in interdisciplinary solutions to climate change and is passionate about climate justice and the Arctic. When not doing research or community organizing, Leehi loves to paint Impressionist art.