



Sturm College of Law
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



**The Ved Nanda Center for
International & Comparative Law**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

CORPORATE CLIMATE LIABILITY

COMPARATIVE LEGAL INSIGHTS

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

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WORKSHOP - SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

The Hon. Justice Brian J PRESTON

AO FRSN SC, Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales (Australia)

Justice Preston is the Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales. Prior to being appointed in November 2005, he was a senior counsel practising primarily in New South Wales in environmental, planning, administrative and property law. He has lectured in post-graduate environmental law for over 30 years. He is the author of Australia's first book on environmental litigation and 169 articles, book chapters and reviews on environmental law, administrative and criminal law. He holds numerous editorial positions in environmental law publications and has been involved in a number of international environmental consultancies and capacity-building programs, including for judiciaries throughout Asia, Africa and the European Union.

Justice Preston is an Official Member of the Judicial Commission of NSW, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW and Honorary Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. He was awarded a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) by Macquarie University in 2018 and a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) by Western Sydney University in 2022. He is a member of various international environmental law committees and advisory boards, including serving on the Governing Council and as Vice President for Oceania of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment and as Chair of the Environmental Law Committee of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA).

Justice Preston was recognised with the Award for Excellence – Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Law by the Law Council of Australia's Legal Practice Section in 2021. In 2023, he was awarded the Medal of Honour by the World Jurist Association at the United Nations in New York and was granted Life Membership by LAWASIA. He was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Australia Day Honours List 2025.

Justice Preston is currently a Senior Research Visitor to the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford for the Michaelmas Term in 2026, a Visiting Professor at Durham University (UK), an Adjunct Professor at three Australian universities, the University of Sydney, Western Sydney University and Southern Cross University, and a former Visiting Fellow at Corpus Christi College and Magdalen College at Oxford University (UK).

Riccardo AQUILINI

Adjunct Professor, Università del Piemonte Orientale; Teaching Assistant, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Practicing Lawyer (Italy)

Riccardo Aquilini is a PhD in Civil Procedural Law at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan), where his doctoral research focuses on climate change litigation and procedural tools for environmental and climate protection, with particular attention to collective actions and strategic litigation.

His research interests lie at the intersection of climate litigation, financial institutions, and sustainability law, with a specific focus on claims brought against corporations, banks, and public financial actors. He has published on climate litigation before national and European courts and is currently working on the emerging role of banks and financial markets in climate-related disputes.

He has participated in international conferences, including the 2025 Conference of the European Association of Climate Law (EACL), and is involved in teaching activities in the field of European capital markets and banking regulation at the University of Bologna. He is also a practicing lawyer, active in civil and commercial litigation.

Jackie DUGARD

Senior Lecturer, Political Science, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University; Visiting Professor of Law, University of the Witwatersrand (South-Africa)

Jackie Dugard is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) at Columbia University. She teaches International Human Rights Law, Socio-Economic Rights, and Climate Justice. Jackie is also a Visiting Professor in the School of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg). With a background in law and social sciences – BA (Hons) & LLB (Wits); MPhil & PhD (Cambridge); and LLM (Essex) – Jackie is an expert on socio-economic rights, land rights, and climate rights. Jackie is currently the Land and Housing Rights workstream leader for a UN Prevention Project led by Pablo de Greiff. Jackie was a co-founder and the first Executive Director (2010–2012) of the non-governmental organization, Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI), and the founding first Director (2014–2016) of the Gender Equity Office (GEO) at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Christina ECKES

Professor of European Law, University of Amsterdam; Director of the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG) (The Netherlands)

Christina Eckes is professor of European law at the University of Amsterdam and director of the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG). Her current research – funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant – is strategic climate litigation's direct and indirect consequences for the democratic process in the multi-layered legal landscape of Europe. Her most recent publications examine the legal and factual exceptionalism of climate litigation, climate constitutionalisation, and the normative relevance of climate science in litigation.

Alisson HERREN LEE

Adjunct Professor; Senior Research Fellow Institute for Corporate Governance and Finance, New York University School of Law

Alisson Herren Lee was the Acting Chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 2019 to 2021 and served as a commissioner until 2022. Throughout her tenure, she made climate change risk and ESG a top SEC priority.

Alisson Herren Lee has over two decades of experience as a securities law practitioner. She wrote, lectured, and taught courses internationally in Spain and Italy on financial regulation and corporate law. She served for over a decade in various roles at the SEC. In addition, she has served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, was a member of the American Bar Association's former Committee on Public Company Disclosure, and participated in a USAID project in Armenia, assisting in the drafting of periodic reporting and disclosure provisions for a comprehensive law of the Republic of Armenia on Securities Market Regulation.

Before government service, Allison Herren Lee, a member of the Colorado Bar, was a partner at Sherman & Howard LLC, focusing on securities, antitrust, and commercial litigation.

She is currently an Adjunct Professor, a Senior Research Fellow at NYU Law's Institute for Corporate Governance and Finance, and is Of Counsel at Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto.

Priya KUMARI

Assistant Professor, VIT-AP School of Law (India)

Priya Kumari is serving as an Assistant Professor of Law at the VIT-AP School of Law, India. She teaches various subjects such as Environmental Law, Intellectual Property, and Trademarks Law. She has recently defended her PhD on Public-Private Partnership in Addressing Climate Change from the Maharashtra National Law University Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, India.

Alessandra LEHMEN

Professor of Law, University of Caxias do Sul (Brazil)

Prof. Dr. Alessandra Lehmen – Dual-qualified lawyer (Brazil and New York). Co-Chair, Climate Law and Governance Initiative – CLGI (Cambridge). Law Professor, UCS (Brazil). President, Brazilian Bar Environmental Law Commission, Rio Grande do Sul State Chapter. Postdoctoral Laureate, Make Our Planet Great Again Program, Presidency of France/CNRS/Aix-Marseille Université. Ph.D in International Law, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. LLM in Environmental Law and Policy, Stanford Law School. Rising Environmental Leaders Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute. Fellow, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (Cambridge/McGill). W50 Leadership Scholar. ESG Certificate, CFA Institute. Negotiation Certificate, Harvard Law School. Member, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law. Member, Climate Change and International Trade community of practice, Lauterpacht Centre/University of Cambridge. Recipient of the Olaus and Adolph Murie Award for Best Work in Environmental Law, Stanford Law School, and of the Conservation Catalysts Award, Lincoln Institute of Land Use and Policy/Harvard Forest.

James R. MAY

Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law, Washburn University

James R. May, Esq. is Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law at Washburn University, where he teaches environmental law, constitutional law and human rights, and co-directs the program in environmental, energy and resources law. May also serves as Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus at Widener University, where he was Chief Sustainability Officer and founded programs in Human Dignity Rights and Environmental Rights, and helped establish joint programs with universities around the globe. May has served as Visiting Professor at Georgetown, Duquesne, Hawai'i, Pace, Pittsburgh, Utah, Vermont, and with universities in Brazil, Haiti, France, Germany, Pakistan, Spain, South Africa, Turkey and elsewhere. May has published 20 casebooks and treatises and more than 120 book chapters spanning environmental law and human rights. He is the founder of Dignity Rights Advocates, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, and recipient of the American Bar Association's Award for Distinguished Achievement and many other awards. His most recent book is *Environmental Rights: Recognition, Implementation, Outcomes, and Alternatives* (Edward Elgar, 2026).

Pranav Anand OJHA

Assistant Professor, VIT-AP School of Law (India)

Pranav Anand Ojha is working as an Assistant Professor of Law at the School of Law (VSL) at VIT-AP University, Amravati, A.P., India. He specializes in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. He teaches subjects including Intellectual Property Rights, Interpretation of Statutes, and Constitutional Law among others. With a keen interest in the protection of fundamental and human rights, he has recently defended his PhD on the rights of indigenous communities and their protection under IP Law from the Maharashtra National Law University Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, India.

Philipp PAIEMENT

Professor of Law & Governance in the Anthropocene, Tilburg Law School (The Netherlands)

Phillip Paiement is professor of Law & Governance in the Anthropocene at Tilburg Law School and co-Convening Editor of Transnational Legal Theory. His current research – funded by an ERC Starting Grant – combines doctrinal and qualitative socio-legal methods to study the transnational collaborative networks of strategic litigators work on climate change, pollution from the extractive industries, biodiversity conservation, and land conflicts.

Puspa POKHAREL

Ph.D. Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

Puspa Pokharel is a human rights lawyer from Nepal and a Presidential PhD Scholar at the Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong (HKU). Her doctoral research examines the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in ensuring effective remedies for business-related human rights abuses, with completion expected in June 2026. She holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, graduating cum laude. Puspa is currently the Director of National Law College and Associate Professor of Law (on study leave) in Nepal. She has extensive experience in human rights law and specializes in business and human rights (BHR) in Nepal, including training government officials, educating stakeholders, conducting capacity-building programs, and providing consultancy services on business-related human rights responsibilities and remedies. She has taught human rights to law students, foreign ministry officials, and armed police forces in Nepal. Her scholarship combines strong theoretical foundations with extensive practical experiences in the field.

Hao ZHANG

Associate Professor of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Hao Zhang is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Specialising in energy and climate law, his research centres on the legal and regulatory frameworks governing energy decarbonisation and the transition to a green economy, with a particular focus on China and comparative legal research. His recent work examines carbon pricing mechanisms and their interplay with electricity market regulation, renewable energy law, energy market reforms, and critical raw materials. He is the author of the monograph *In Pursuit of Carbon Neutrality: Energy Law and Regulation in China* (Cambridge University Press, 2024) and held the 2025–26 Clare Hall Visiting Fellowship at University of Cambridge. Beyond academia, he has contributed expertise as a consultant to international organisations, government agencies, and NGOs, including the Energy Charter Secretariat, the German Environment Agency, and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

Dan ZIEBARTH

Doctoral Researcher, The Law Group at Wageningen University (The Netherlands)

Visiting Fellow at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center

Dan Ziebarth is a doctoral researcher in the Law Group at Wageningen University and Visiting Fellow at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center. His primary research focuses on issues in international and comparative law, specifically relating to human rights, climate change, the environment, and business. His work has been published in law reviews which include the *UIC Law Review* and *St. Mary's Law Journal*, as well as *Ecology Law Currents*, *University of Illinois Law Review Online*, and *Kentucky Law Journal Online*. In addition, he has published numerous works across peer-reviewed social science journals, policy reports, book reviews, and academic blog posts. He has held roles as a Visiting Fellow at Bucerius Law School and Ernst Mach Fellow at the Austrian Institute of International Affairs and presented at numerous academic legal conferences hosted by institutions which include Northwestern Law School, NYU Law School, and the National University of Singapore.