



# Critical Insights in the Law and Law Practice: Ethical and Moral Responsibility

*A discussion in four parts*

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: HEARING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ECONOMIC DIN

*A Roundtable Discussion Presented and Moderated by Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Lecturer in Law,  
The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law.*

### Co-sponsored by:

*The D.C. Bar Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Section  
Environmental Law Institute  
Women's Council on Energy & Environment  
American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources*

**February 23, 2012**

**5 pm – 6:30 pm**

**National Press Club**

**529 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20045**

Environmental justice is a broad concept, generally accepted to mean that we seek a society where all people—regardless of race, color, national origin, or income—are protected from environmental and health hazards, are meaningfully involved in the regulatory and decision-making process, and that no subpopulation bears a disproportionate share of environmental risks and burdens. When the economy is strong, environmental controls are more likely to be funded and community requests and needs are more likely to be considered by corporations, developers, and governments. Similarly, in a robust economy, the government and private sectors are more likely to invest in programs to support community participation and education.

Given today's strained economy—both domestically and abroad—this dynamic expert panel will hold a substantive and productive conversation on critical and important issues related to environmental justice. The speakers will touch on the impacts of the economic downturn on low-income and minority communities in the United States and in developing nations; steps the U.S. federal government is taking to advance environmental justice domestically; and important private sector initiatives. Ultimately, the panel will consider how environmental justice principles can be effectively advanced and applied in weak economic times.

### Speakers

**Scott Fulton, General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.** Fulton has served as the EPA's general counsel since 2009. He previously served as deputy and acting assistant administrator in the agency's Office of International Affairs where he led its international environmental policy development and program implementation and represented the U.S. in various international negotiations. Earlier positions within EPA include environmental appeals board judge, principal deputy general counsel, and director of civil enforcement in EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. His extensive career in environmental policy and law began in 1982, when he served as an environmental prosecutor in the Justice Department and contributed to the development of many of the liability principles that underpin the United States' environmental protection program.

**Susan Parker Bodine, Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP.** Bodine focuses her practice on environmental public policy issues including water pollution control, wetlands issues, federal regulation of property, regulation of wastes, remediation of contaminated properties, and water resources development. Previously, Bodine was EPA's assistant administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, where she managed EPA's programs related to the cleanup and prevention of hazardous substance releases, including programs related to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Superfund, Brownfields, oil spill prevention, underground storage tanks, and emergency preparedness and response. Prior to her role at EPA, Ms. Bodine served as staff director and senior counsel for the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

**Carole Excell, Senior Associate, World Resources Institute.** A legally-trained expert based in Washington, DC, Excell focuses her work on access to information, public participation and access to justice issues around the world. She has served as coordinator for the implementation of the Cayman Islands Freedom of Information Law, and also worked with the Carter Center as field representative in Jamaica on their Access to Information Project, where she was involved in legal and policy issues associated with the right to information. Excell has acted as the secretariat to the Volunteer Attorneys Panel, a panel of lawyers who provide pro bono services to civil society organizations and indigent persons. She previously worked with the government of Jamaica on environmental and planning issues.

**Daria E. Neal, Deputy Chief, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section.** Neal oversees team of attorneys and investigators who work with federal agencies to ensure consistent enforcement of civil rights statutes and executive orders that prohibit discrimination in federal programs and activities. Prior to the Department of Justice, Neal was senior counsel for the Environmental Justice Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, working closely with communities to address environmental justice issues. Ms. Neal coordinated the National Commission on Environmental Justice on the Gulf Coast to examine the environmental impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on minority and low-income communities, which led to the release of a seminal report.

**Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Lecturer in Law, Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law.** Dunn is executive director and general counsel of the Association of Clean Water Administrators, representing the U.S. states and interstate water commissions on clean water regulations, policy, and law. Previously, Dunn was dean of environmental law programs at Pace Law School, where she taught both environmental justice and human rights and the environment. Dunn was general counsel of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, counsel to the American Chemistry Council, and an environmental attorney at Winston & Strawn. Dunn is chair-elect of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources and serves on the Environmental Law Institute Board.

This four-symposia series is sponsored by The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. All programs will be held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., during 2011-2012.

### LECTURES

**October**  
Creating Liquidity for Shareholders of Private Companies—the New Definition of Publicly Traded Securities

**February**  
Environmental Justice: Hearing Communities through the Economic Din

**April**  
Current Pension Topics under ERISA

**May**  
Religious Liberty Under President Obama

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Tom Haederle, director of public affairs: [haederle@law.edu](mailto:haederle@law.edu).

### REGISTRATION

**Advance is suggested due to limited seating:**

[Click here for the registration form](#), or contact Patty Davila at [Davila@law.edu](mailto:Davila@law.edu) or 202-319-6126.

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