



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Making law work for people, places, and the planet.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN



Scott Fulton
President

In a year when disinformation and overheated rhetoric threatened the very foundations of the democracy, ELI held firmly to our mission of providing factual, astute analysis and working to strengthen rule of law to protect people, places, and the planet, including through a strong reaffirmation of our deep commitment to environmental justice.

Dominant events in 2020 included the COVID-19 pandemic that forced so many activities into virtual platforms, rising protests against racial injustice, and the rampant disinformation that, among other things, led to the 2021 attack on the Capitol by an insurrectionist mob threatening to harm members of Congress doing their work. A difficult year, indeed!

But at ELI, by adhering to our bedrock principles, we were able to shine a steady light on the increasingly urgent needs for effective environmental protection amid worsening climate change and other problems. We did so even as the Trump administration pursued highly impactful revisions to federal environmental and natural resource policies and as rapidly emerging digital technologies continued to reshape regulatory possibilities in far-reaching and still-evolving ways.

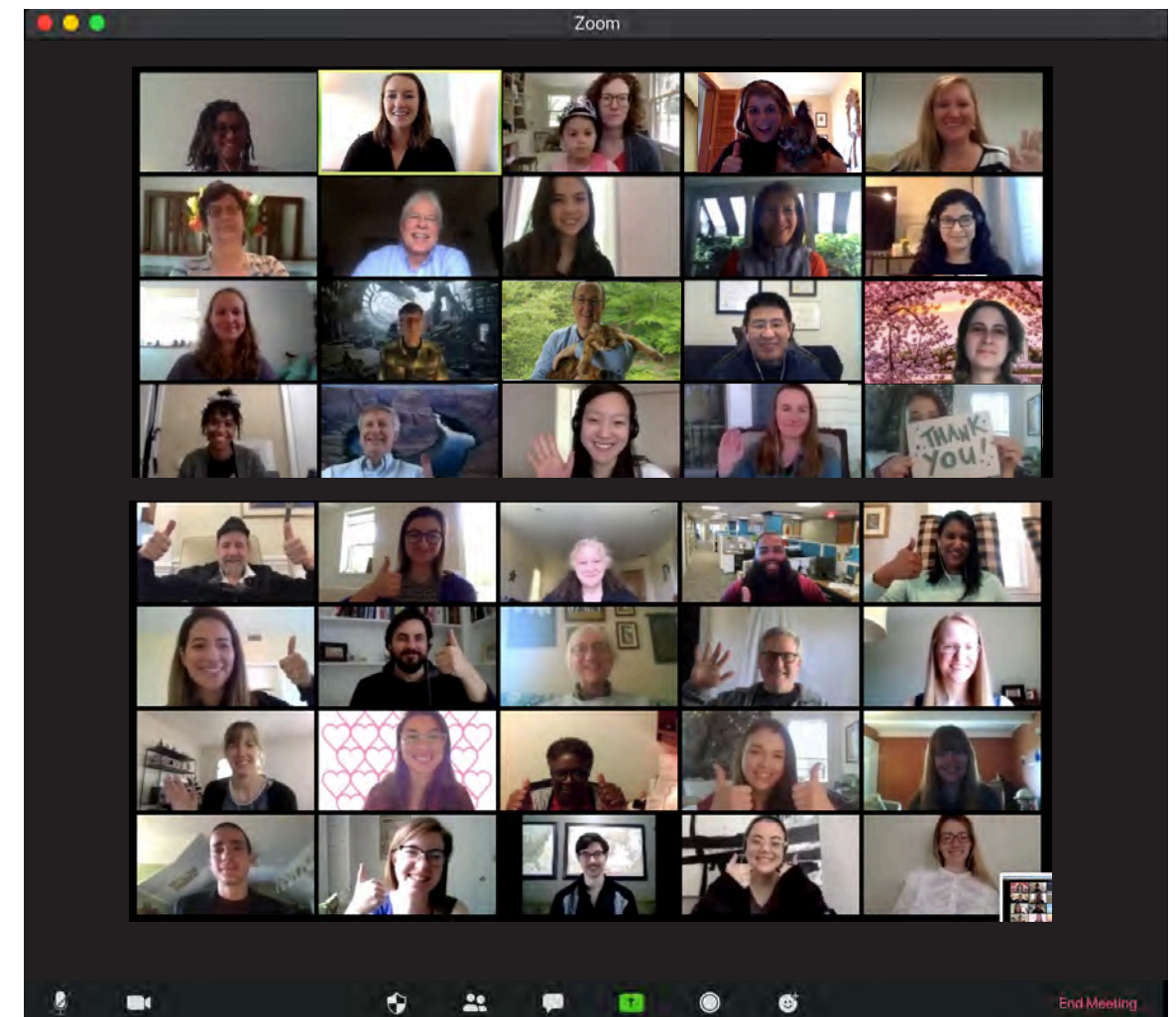
As the year's challenging events unfolded, it became clear to the ELI leadership team and Board that our many actions since the 1990s to strengthen the voice of environmental justice needed renewed boldness to overcome fresh obstacles. In April, we teamed with American University Washington College of Law to convene experts for a webinar on "Community Lawyering for Environmental and Climate Justice." The webinar focused on how the legal profession and others can shore up defenses for communities of color and low-income communities grappling with the intertwined issues of environmental and climate justice. In November, with generous support from the True Costs Initiative, ELI and Howard University Law School created a new Environmental Justice Clerkship that was designed to bring more students of color into environmental law. Our numerous 2020 EJ activities culminated in the ELI Board's December 3 *Statement on Racism and Environmental Justice* that reaffirmed our stand against racism, together with an Accountability Roadmap identifying numerous concrete steps we have taken and will continue to take going forward. Notably, ELI's Board, one of the most racially diverse boards in the environmental community, achieved gender parity in 2020, with 20 women and 20 men.

For many Americans, 2020 will likely be remembered as a year of Zoom gatherings and virtual events. For ELI, we were proud to have met the crisis with a creative and exciting Annual Awards Ceremony on October 15 where we recognized 2020 honoree Denis Hayes, organizer of the first Earth Day, for his

lifetime of visionary leadership. Likewise, we were able to honor our 2020 "Wetland Heroes" in a multi-faceted virtual National Wetlands Awards program that ran throughout the month of May.

Those two online celebratory events were held together with 80 training programs, workshops, seminars, and webinars on climate science, citizen science, and many other critical issues that ELI's Research and Policy Team held throughout the year. Despite the pandemic's hardships, ELI staff worked with the National Judicial College and the Federal Judicial Center to hold climate science seminars for some 300 judges. Globally, more than 4,000 people from 154 countries enrolled in our third massive open online course on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace. Our 2020 virtual Summer School Series saw on average double the number of registrations compared with 2019 for a total of more than 3,900 participants. And, we're happy to say that ELI's GreenTech initiative seamlessly went virtual with a series of webinars begun in 2020 and continuing in 2021 to carry on our exploration of how technological changes can contribute to a profound and exciting evolution of environmental protection.

Among ELI's 13 Research Reports published last year, *Environment 2021: What Comes Next?* marked the third in a series of reports that were in high demand as experts and laypeople alike sought to understand the implications of the Trump administration's environmental regulatory reforms. While 2020 may have been a year of dangerous disinformation, our work showed that by maintaining an unyielding focus on facts and thoughtful analysis, we could further strengthen ELI's role as the go-to source of trusted environmental law and policy information and analysis both in the United States and globally.



INTERNATIONAL WORK IN 2020

WORLDWIDE

- Empowered women and improved gender equality in environmental peacebuilding
- As Secretariat of INECE, led global efforts to reinvigorate compliance and enforcement
- Assessed national legal and policy frameworks for global water resources
- Drafted guidance to support Montreal Protocol enforcement
- Advised on best practices for environmental peacebuilding

CHINA

Trained Chinese environmental NGOs, judges, and prosecutors on pollutant discharge & permitting systems; Supported capacity of environmental law system in China; Trained Chinese environmental officials and NGOs on comparative best practices; Brokered dialogue between high-performing businesses and Chinese regulators on best regulatory practices

UZBEKISTAN & KAZAKHSTAN

Improved environmental planning codes for climate change adaptation

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Conceived framework to help climate migrants relocate with dignity

ETHIOPIA

Provided capacity-building & training for water sector

UGANDA & DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Identified laws to mitigate conflicts related to renewable energy

CURACAO

Advanced marine sanctuary & fisheries management

COLOMBIA

Offered training on the establishment of environmental courts & tribunals

PERU

Improved capacity to enforce unlawful wildlife trafficking

● **Examined conflict sensitivity in Global Environment Facility countries** – Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Mali, Montenegro, Rwanda, Serbia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

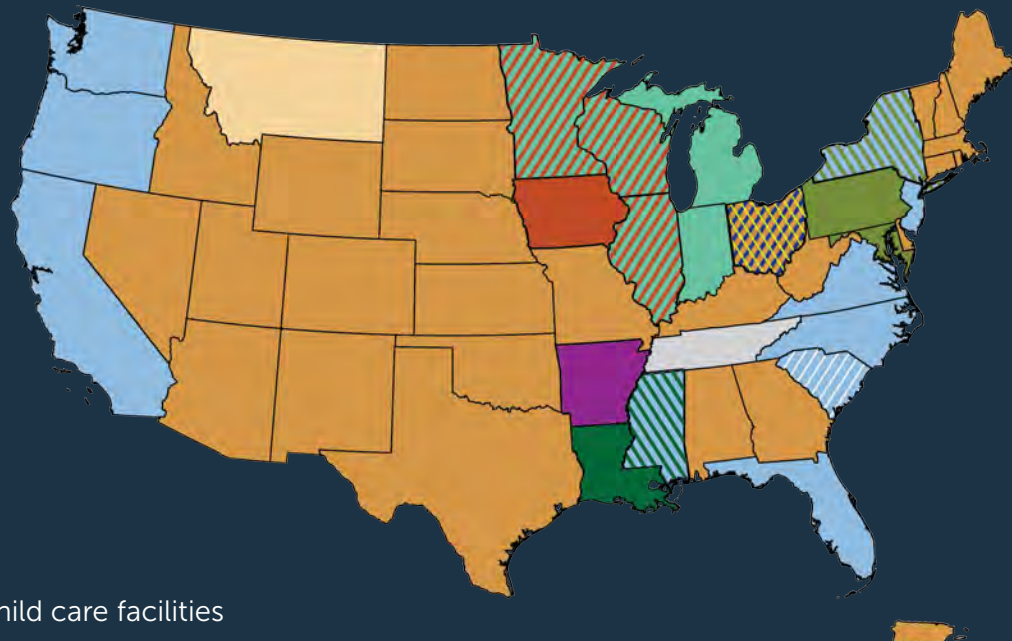
● **Strengthened marine spatial planning frameworks** – Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Pacific Islands, Panama, New Zealand, Sao Tome, Timor-Leste

● **Advanced sustainable small-scale fisheries** – Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Fiji, Iceland, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, St. Lucia

● **Improved capacity & identified legal mechanisms to protect wildlife** – Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Malaysia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

● **Helped women, communities, and nations realize, manage, and protect their water rights and resources** – Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia

WORK IN THE U.S IN 2020



● ELI NATIONAL WORK

- Assisted in the safe siting of child care facilities
- Examined legal requirements for water utility plans and their impact on land use policy for all 50 states
- Via Igean.net, helped local governments and communities achieve excellence in environmental management, education, and compliance
- Strengthened indoor air quality policies and practices
- Provided judicial training on climate science
- Integrated wetland restoration priorities into state and local hazard mitigation plans
- Promoted innovative ideas from the legal academic community
- Improved legal communities' understanding of complex science
- Enabled & identified best practices for citizen science programs at environmental agencies
- Improved compensatory mitigation project review, in-lieu fee program implementation, and wetlands management
- Raised awareness of the energy and environmental impacts of the digital economy, biotechnology, and the Internet
- Increased stakeholders' understanding of ocean and coastal law and policy
- Improved Clean Water Act management, implementation, and data-sharing via multi-day training workshops
- Identified gaps in and offered improvements to ocean and coastal law and policy (CA, FL, MS, NC, NJ, NY, OR, SC, VA, WA)
- Helped communities navigate the floodplain buyout process (NC)
- Audited in-lieu fee programs (OH)
- Convened a Tribal Wetlands Working Group (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI & 35 Tribal Nations)
- Enhanced Inuit self-governance of marine resources (AK)
- Curbed agricultural runoff via innovative financing mechanisms (IA, IL, MN, WI)
- Helped communities better understand and engage in *Deepwater Horizon* restoration (LA, MS)
- Analyzed differing structural scenarios to improve water quality in the Conowingo watershed (MD, NY, PA)
- Trained farmers, state and tribal stakeholders, and nonprofits about the integration of water quality and quantity management (MT)
- Promoted food waste reduction in Nashville (NRDC Project) (TN)

ELI BY THE NUMBERS

2,422
members of ELI

1

ELR's ranking on the list of most-often cited environmental law journals by *Washington & Lee Law Journal Rankings* (global, peer-reviewed).

222

Recipients of the National Wetlands Awards since the program began

U.S. states and territories where ELI advanced environmental law and policy



19,968

downloads of People Places Planet Podcast heard in 79 countries around the globe

263

court opinions added to ELR's collection, now totalling 13,470+

75

articles published in ELR in 2020, 3,051 in total

6,824 downloads of ELI's research reports

countries where ELI advanced environmental law in 2020

107

118

workshops, educational webinars, conferences, and other events attended by more than 21,000 people

blogs published in 2020
74

51 years since ELI was formed on December 21, 1969, the same day Congress passed NEPA

NAVIGATING A DIFFICULT YEAR WITH RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2020 was pandemic, an outbreak of a disease affecting a significant proportion of the population. COVID-19 most certainly has affected the entire United States and the world. In doing so, the pandemic reminded us of humanity's vulnerability as we increasingly destroy wild habitats, enabling new diseases like COVID-19 to leap from animals to humans.

But other words could also be said to characterize 2020, such as resilience and adaptability. As the pandemic shut down face-to-face gatherings everywhere, ELI like so many others shifted to virtual operations. For us, one of the biggest challenges was holding our annual gala awards dinner virtually. And yet, challenges notwithstanding, we held a highly successful first-ever online event October 15 and pivoted to virtual annual wetlands awards, GreenTech webinars, and other events.

Another critically important word last year was disinformation. Amid the seemingly relentless efforts to cloud the distinction between facts and falsehoods, ELI held fast to our foundational values of objective, fact- and science-based decisionmaking, and careful research and analysis—concepts that will always prevail when adequate light is brought to bear. We see this as an increasingly sacred aspect of the ELI mission and will persevere in doing our part to advance environmental decisions that are grounded in objective fact, the best science, and sound construction of the law.

To this end, in 2020, ELI's Research and Policy team conducted 80 training programs, workshops, seminars,

and webinars for communities, government officials, and environmental law and policy practitioners. Topics of the training programs, as well as our 13 Research Reports published last year, included citizen science best practices, climate science for judges, and the potentially far-reaching implications of Trump administration actions aimed at changing the ways in which scientific information may be used in developing and carrying out environmental policy and regulation. In addition, staff held four climate science seminars with the National Judicial College and the Federal Judicial Center for approximately 300 judges. Our third massive open online course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace had more than 4,000 people enroll from 154 countries, bringing the total number of people that have enrolled in the MOOC to 20,000 from over 176 countries over three years.

Events in 2020 such as the brutal killing of George Floyd also convinced many Americans that we need to go much further in reaffirming our nation's commitment to equal justice for everyone, including in the environmental context. At ELI, all staff participated in Diversity-Equity-Inclusion training to ensure we address these issues internally. And in December, our board embraced a *Statement on Race and Environmental Justice*, reaffirming our decades-long commitment to furthering environmental justice, along with a Roadmap to ensure accountability. As discussed elsewhere in this annual report, the Statement and Roadmap were only part of the many 2020 ELI actions that we will carry forward as we continue the shared project of building equitable environmental governance to support a sustainable future for all.

AGGRESSIVELY ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES

Amid 2020's rising protests against racial inequities, environmental justice (EJ) was much on the minds of ELI staff and Board members. In June, responding to the vicious killing of George Floyd, ELI Board Chair Benjamin F. Wilson and President Scott Fulton issued statements denouncing systemic racism. These concerns culminated in a December 3 ELI Board *Statement on Racism and Environmental Justice*. Before issuing the statement, ELI was proud to announce that, with generous support from the True Costs Initiative, we had joined with our long-time collaborator Howard University Law School to launch a new Environmental Justice Clerkship at ELI dedicated to training and mentoring skilled advocates with the goal of expanding the number of colleagues and leaders of color contributing to the environmental law field.

In April, ELI joined with American University Washington College of Law to co-sponsor a well-attended virtual workshop on "Community Lawyering for Environmental Justice and Climate Justice." From experts in advocacy, academia, and the private sector, the workshop participants learned about legal tools for advancing environmental and climate justice in marginalized communities, with breakout workgroups to engage more fully on the issues. In July, we co-sponsored a related webinar on "A State Approach to a Just Transition" during which speakers discussed how New York, Illinois, and the District of Columbia are leading the way with

innovative legislation that prioritizes community needs and sets ambitious decarbonization goals.

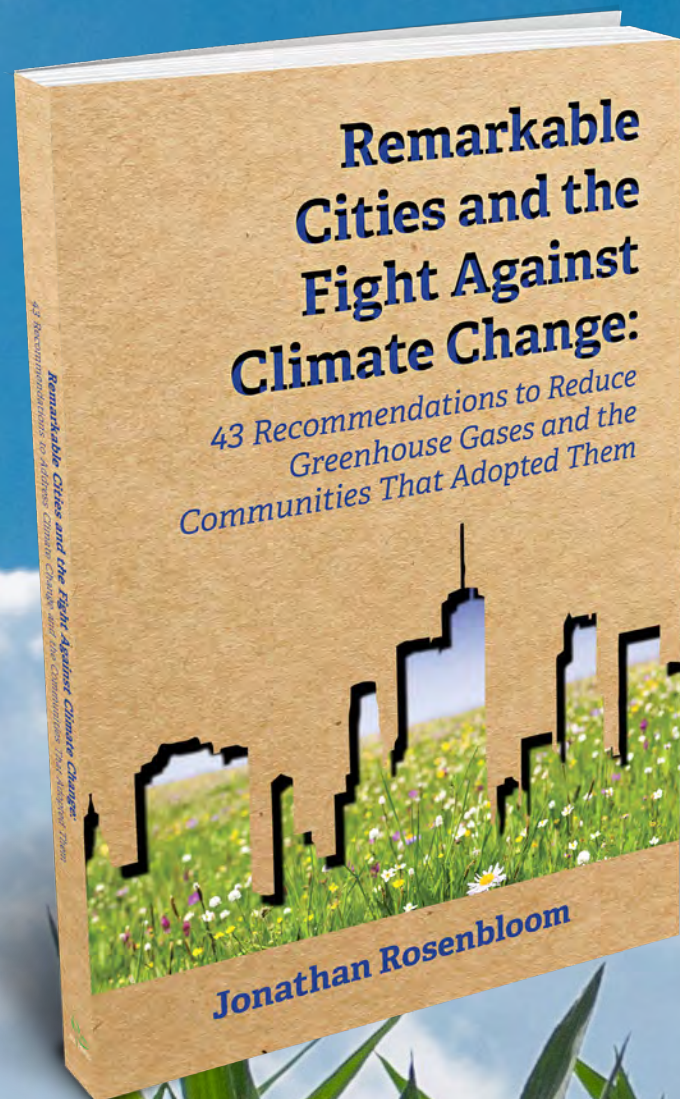
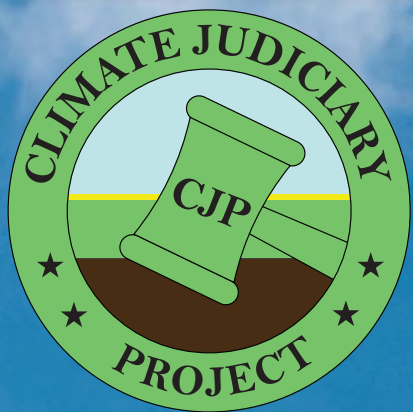
In March's featured *Environmental Law Reporter* (ELR) article, EJ pioneer Charles Lee shared lessons learned from states advancing environmental justice through mapping and cumulative impact strategies. And in December's featured ELR article, EJ scholar Barry Hill—the author of *Environmental Justice: Legal Theory and Practice* (ELI Press 4th Ed. 2017)—explored various legal doctrines states can employ in litigation aimed at compelling fossil fuel companies to address climate injustices.

Also keeping an eye on EJ as it pertains to Indigenous peoples, ELI understands food sovereignty and self-government are a necessity for food security, especially in the rapidly changing Arctic region. Inuit have successfully safeguarded the Arctic for thousands of years, but the non-Indigenous external management systems overlaid on top of traditional Inuit practices have taken a different approach, oftentimes grounded in historical discrimination. ELI was honored to play a key role in an Inuit-led effort to identify obstacles to and opportunities for promoting co-management in the Western Arctic. The resulting report, a product of over 90 Inuit authors and a nine-member Advisory Committee, elicits long-standing issues of inequity and the struggle for Indigenous sovereignty—but it also suggests promising pathways for moving forward, with Inuit leadership a necessary part of the equation.



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CLARIFYING TODAY'S CLIMATE CHANGE CONTEXT



As a sense of urgency about climate change grew in 2020 despite continued misinformation, skepticism, and political controversy, ELI considered it important to understand how U.S. and international courts view the basics of climate science. In a report ELI published in April—*Climate Science in the Courts, A Review of U.S. and International Judicial Pronouncements*—we learned that in federal and state courts, as well as in foreign courts, climate science is now an issue “beyond reasonable dispute.” Even if many courts continue to defer to political representatives to determine solutions, these judicial determinations about climate science should be more influential in the public debate about climate change.

With the aim of building judicial capacity for climate science, on May 21, ELI’s Climate Judiciary Project—in collaboration with the National Judicial College and the Federal Judicial Center—presented a virtual workshop on “Climate Science in the Time of COVID-19” that trained approximately 200 judges in-person and online. The program’s distinguished faculty discussed the underlying climate science and lines of evidence as well as how climate change affects the emergence of infectious diseases like COVID-19. Following up, ELI is working with the National Academy of Sciences to place a chapter on climate into the 4th edition of the *Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence* for judges.

And consistent with our commitment to presenting practical policy solutions, in March, ELI Press published *Remarkable Cities and the Fight Against Climate Change*, an invaluable resource of 43 Sustainability Development Codes adopted by communities nationwide that local governments of any size and budget can adopt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build greater resilience, and advance economic security and social equity.



Reinforcing Citizen Science Through Research and Recommendations

Last year, ELI and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement co-sponsored a six-part webinar series on citizen science. But the topic warrants digging even deeper, which is what ELI did in three of our 27 Research Reports by ELI expert attorneys and scientists. Released in November, the three reports on diverse key issues included *Citizen Science Programs at Environmental Agencies: Case Studies*, which examined programs at 15 agencies that actively involve the public as collaborative participants in protecting the environment. *Citizen Science Programs at Environmental Agencies: Best Practices* identified and described in detail best practices for environmental agencies interested in or actively pursuing citizen science, with relevant examples and case studies. And *Enabling Citizen Science Programs at Environmental Agencies: Recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* outlined the key issue areas and offered strategic recommendations to the U.S. EPA and other potential partners on how to facilitate the uptake of citizen science.

Environment 2021: Astutely Assessing the Trump Agenda’s Dramatic Environmental Shifts

As the Trump administration continued its sweeping environmental deregulatory agenda, ELI offered our much-in-demand analysis of those consequential efforts with a third report that closely examined the administration’s actions. The report—*Environment 2021: What Comes Next?*—provided a factual, nonpartisan examination of both the substantive and procedural regulatory and deregulatory activities undertaken by the administration, identified their significance and their relationship to other aspects of environmental governance, and offered policymakers and practitioners observations about future paths, including how to meet the pressing needs of environmental justice. Woven throughout the report are the interrelated themes of the Trump actions that restricted the use of certain scientific studies in the regulatory process and limited the use of environmental information in federal decisions, leading to the report’s conclusion: “Possibly the most consequential environmental regulatory action across the federal government is the total revision of the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality” for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. CEQ, for example, redefined “effects” to eliminate any reference to “cumulative” and “indirect” effects, which were core to NEPA analyses for 50 years.



ADVANCING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT BEST PRACTICES

Environmental Collaboration: Shaping the future of regulation, compliance and enforcement together—that was the theme of a first-ever combined conference co-hosted by ELI as the Secretariat for the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) and the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators network, or AELERT, held March 10-13 in Adelaide, Australia, just before the pandemic cancelled so many international and other in-person gatherings. At the conference, more than 300 participants from 30 countries, representing all government levels and all regions on the inhabited

continents, shared best practices and innovations. Through their collaboration, INECE and AELERT opened up numerous opportunities to cooperate and build capacity across regions, jurisdictions, and organizations in ways that are rarely possible for environmental regulators. Every vital topic—biodiversity and conservation, waste, pollution, marine environment, biosecurity, and climate change—was covered in a way that balanced the technical and operational aspects of issues with broader policy and strategic discussions. In the words of jazz musician Louis Armstrong, “So little time and so much to do.”

Like so many in the year of COVID-19 and social distancing, in 2020, ELI rapidly pivoted, holding our first virtual Annual Awards Ceremony on October 15 during which we recognized 2020 Environmental Achievement Award Honoree and EarthDay founder Denis Hayes for his visionary leadership and outstanding environmental stewardship over a most distinguished career. In his remarks, Hayes emphasized the critical role technology will play in achieving future environmental gains.

As in every year, our 2020 event featured thought-provoking forums. Speakers at the 2020 Policy Forum on “Environment 2021: Reimagining Environmental Governance” explored issues raised in *Environment*

supporting two rising environmental lawyers who are committed to building the next generation of environmental protection law and policy. With the generous support from Jim’s wife, Nancie Thomas, and other members of the ELI community, Jim’s enduring mark as a highly respected international environmental law attorney lives on.

EXTOLLING LEADERSHIP — IN EARTH ADVOCACY, IN WETLANDS PROTECTION, AND BEYOND

2021: What Comes Next? and discussed legislative proposals for the emerging new era. In the 2020 Corporate Forum, “Reimagining Supply Chains for a Resilient and Just Future,” corporate leaders discussed how their companies are revamping their supply chains amid the coronavirus pandemic, the push for racial justice, and continued efforts to respond effectively to the climate crisis.

Having to hold events online didn’t deter ELI from honoring our 2020 National Wetlands Awardees throughout the month of May via podcasts, blogs, videos, and other virtual programming. Six individuals were honored whose work stewarding our nation’s natural history and heritage was deemed truly outstanding by our committee of experts from around the country. Doing their work in California, Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, and Nebraska, the 2020 awardees epitomized excellence in wetlands protection, restoration, and education. Details of the 31 annual awards are available at <http://elinwa.org>.

And last August, in announcing the inaugural class of fellows receiving the 2020 Jim Rubin International Fellowship, ELI was both honoring Jim Rubin—a stalwart environmental advocate as a private practitioner and public servant—and

PEERING OVER THE HORIZON

Once again successfully adopting online efforts during the COVID pandemic, in November, ELI launched an eight-part GreenTech webinar series to bring together environmental thought leaders on a wide range of cutting-edge topics, starting with Digital Solutions to Climate and Water Challenges, which elucidated the keen observation, “The future has arrived—it’s just not evenly distributed yet.” The webinars continue exploring the dynamic intersection of policy and cutting-edge technologies ELI began in 2019 with our inaugural GreenTech conference in Seattle. Be sure to attend the 2021 webinars to glimpse our arriving future at: <https://www.greentechconference.org/webinar-series>.

Recognizing the importance of past experience in guiding the future, experts in a November webinar explored the book *Looking Back to Move Forward: Resolving Health & Environmental Crises*, published by the New York University School of Law’s State

Energy & Environmental Impact Center through ELI Press. The book examines how lessons learned from seven major health and environmental crises of our past can inform and guide how the legal system responds to the health and environmental crises of tomorrow. With huge humanitarian and financial costs at stake, societies can ill afford to repeat history.

Lastly, as we all celebrated the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020, it was not too early to begin looking spaceward at the implications of the Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015, which has led to an uptick in interest in asteroid mining. In a July webinar, “Mining the Starry Skies: The Intersection of Environmental Law & Space Law,” ELI convened experts to explore what lessons space law can learn from environmental law and related questions orbiting the policy sphere.

Educating Enforcers and Others About Environmental Law

Last year, ELI and Parliamentarians for Global Action teamed up to create a toolkit for managing small-scale fisheries, or SSF, drawing as always on research and expertise in regulatory practice. During a consultative committee workshop held in February to review the legal toolkit ELI had developed, an important discussion centered on the need to “reframe the way we share information to make it more accessible.”

As government agencies are learning to use the unconventional sources of data provided by citizen science, ELI and co-sponsor INECE in September held a six-part citizen science webinar series. The series explored current and potential uses of increasingly important citizen or community science initiatives in air, water, and other programs around the world to improve environmental monitoring, compliance, and enforcement.

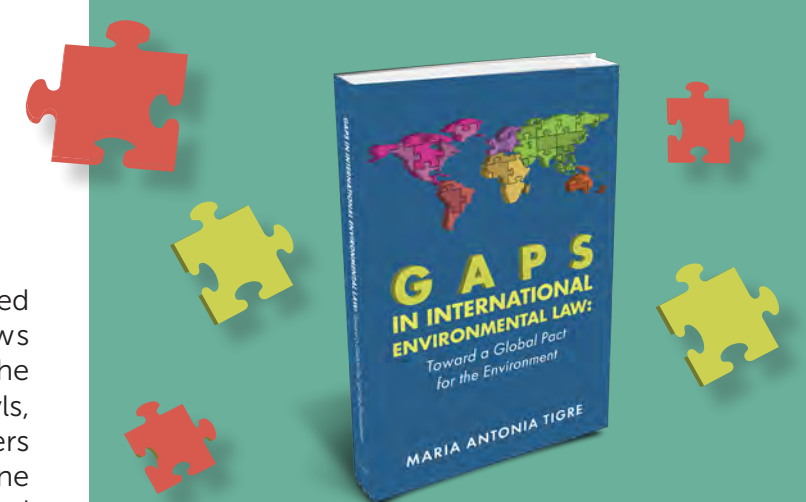
The SSF toolkit and citizen science webinars were only two of the many approaches ELI takes

to educating and empowering policymakers. In July, ELI Press released *What Can Animal Law Learn From Environmental Law?* Second Edition, presenting valuable insights on how lessons of the environmental law movement can enhance animal protections. From June 2 through July 21, ELI’s complementary Summer School 2020 seminar series provided over 3,900 students and emerging professionals an introduction to the legal and policy foundations of U.S. environmental protection, taught remotely for the first time and now featuring environmental justice as a mainstay topic. And at the April 3, 2020, online ELI-Vanderbilt Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review Conference, participants discussed such cutting-edge topics as addressing the social cost of carbon via the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s authority to ensure just and reasonable interstate wholesale electricity rates, improving Securities and Exchange Commission sustainability disclosure requirements, and incentivizing developers to invest in low-carbon energy supply and energy-efficient buildings.

ELUCIDATING THE URGENT ISSUES

Of the many environmental issues that attracted widespread public attention and news coverage in 2020, PFAS, the umbrella term for the chemical compounds per- and polyfluoroalkyls, was among the top. Besides alerting ELI members of diverse PFAS-related events through our online Associate Events Board, we responded to the need for information with an ELI Master Class held in May, “PFAS: From Common Use to Concern,” co-sponsored with multinational engineering firm AECOM. Covered topics were PFAS 101, as well as PFAS in water and packaging.

Although more than a decade has passed since the disastrous 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the urgency of ensuring that Gulf communities possess trusted, nonpartisan law and policy information has not abated. In 2020, ELI’s Ocean Program, which has played a crucial role in Gulf Coast restoration processes since 2010, continued our work helping community restoration projects. We did so by holding public educational workshops and training sessions and by convening diverse stakeholders and restoration decisionmakers. Among our efforts, last February, ELI analyzed the potential implications of the revised NEPA regulations for the coast. Our online “*Environmental Review in the Gulf: How Might Revised NEPA Regulations Impact Coastal Restoration?*” couldn’t have been timelier.



Preparing for Effective Global Environmental Pact Negotiations in 2022

At the International Council on Environmental Law’s request, in January ELI Press published *Gaps in International Environmental Law: Toward a Global Pact for the Environment*, a “deep dive into the challenges that characterize international environmental law today” and future directions emerging under negotiations initiated by the United Nations on a potential global environmental pact. In the book, author Maria Antonia Tigre provides delegates who will be involved in upcoming discussions about “gaps” in international environmental law “with the necessary background to prepare for the adoption of an agreement in 2022 that effectively promotes environmental protection.”

REAFFIRMING ELI’S STAND AGAINST RACISM AND SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

While ELI and its Board have a long-standing commitment to environmental justice that goes back to our 1990s Environmental Justice Initiative working with local and state governments, events in 2020 so blatantly demonstrated the persistence of profound racial injustices in American society that we felt compelled to issue a *Statement on Racism and Environmental Justice*. The statement was accompanied by an Accountability Roadmap identifying who at ELI will be responsible,

within specific time lines, for advancing ELI’s further EJ commitments. Reaffirming our stand against racism and its perpetuation in institutions, the statement pledges to use ELI’s “unique multi-sectoral, cross-discipline, nonpartisan platform as a fulcrum for change,” with commitments for ELI to undertake concrete near-term actions and long-term initiatives. Creating an Environmental Justice Clerkship position was one near-term action taken that we hope will have long-term importance.

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*Annual Report written by
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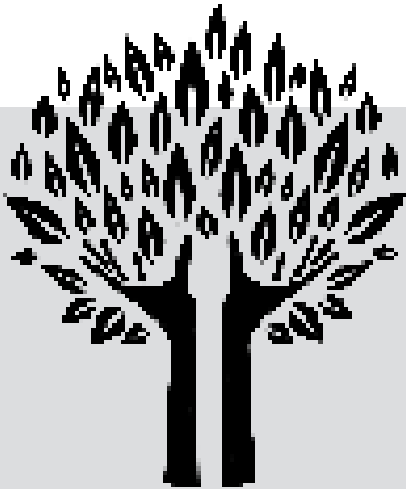
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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statements of Financial Position

Years Ended December 31, 2020 & 2019	2020	2019
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,882,444	\$1,790,528
Accounts receivable		
Awards and contracts	67,877	70,841
Other	6,171	2,637
Contributions receivable, net	500,255	877,272
Investments	5,698,662	5,151,565
Prepaid expenses and inventory	176,471	90,480
Total current assets	9,331,880	7,983,323
Deferred compensation plan assets	45,690	16,309
Property and equipment, at cost		
Furniture, equipment, and software	450,166	434,999
Leasehold improvements	1,010,393	748,408
Total	1,460,559	1,183,407
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(736,516)	(626,522)
Property and equipment, net	724,043	556,885
Other assets		
Security deposit	65,604	65,023
Total assets	\$10,167,217	\$8,621,540
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$227,191	\$237,897
Accrued payroll and vacation	560,274	458,932
Deferred revenue	258,651	339,419
Refundable advances	522,890	66,185
Deferred rent, current portion	-	118,821
Total current liabilities	1,569,006	1,221,254
Deferred compensation plan liability	45,865	17,201
Deferred rent, net of current portion	1,090,155	600,606
Total liabilities	2,705,026	1,839,061
Net assets		
Net assets without donor restrictions	5,759,582	5,392,882
Temporarily restricted	1,702,609	1,389,597
Total net assets	7,462,191	6,782,479
Total liabilities and net assets	\$10,167,217	\$8,621,540

*ELI was fortunate to receive funding from the Paycheck Protection Program. This funding contributed to our success in 2020.

Additional financial information can be obtained from www.eli.org.

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

Year Ended December 31, 2020					
	Without Donor Restrictions	Board Designated	Total Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Operating revenues					
Contributions					
Federal government	\$682,365	\$-	\$682,365	\$-	\$682,365
Foundation	373,349	-	373,349	1,610,196	1,983,545
Corporations and individuals	831,833	-	831,833	190,921	1,022,754
Contributed services	405,936	-	405,936	-	405,936
Award dinner	242,700	-	242,700	-	242,700
PPP loan forgiveness*	847,500	-	847,500	-	847,500
Exchange Transactions					
Federal government	112,482	-	112,482	-	112,482
Non-government	403,524	-	403,524	-	403,524
Publication sales and subscriptions	260,541	-	260,541	-	260,541
Membership	426,697	-	426,697	-	426,697
Conferences and meetings	140,316	-	140,316	-	140,316
Other revenue	305,832	-	305,832	-	305,832
Net assets released from restriction	1,488,105	-	1,488,105	(1,488,105)	-
Total operating revenues	6,521,180	-	6,521,180	313,012	6,834,192
Operating expenses					
Program services					
Research, policy, and training	2,655,491	421,764	3,077,255	-	3,077,255
Associate membership	553,917	-	553,917	-	553,917
Education	158,846	-	158,846	-	158,846
Publications	619,324	-	619,324	-	619,324
Other projects	462,202	-	462,202	-	462,202
Total Program services	4,449,780	421,764	4,871,544	-	4,871,544
Supporting services					
Fundraising	397,394	-	397,394	-	397,394
Management and general	1,438,201	-	1,438,201	-	1,438,201
Total supporting services	1,835,595	-	1,835,595	-	1,835,595
Total operating expenses	6,285,375	421,764	6,707,139	-	6,707,139
Net operating income (loss)	235,805	(421,764)	(185,959)	313,012	127,053
Investment return	552,659	-	552,659	-	552,659
Changes in net assets	788,464	(421,764)	366,700	313,012	679,712
Transfer between net assets without donor restrictions	(420,000)	420,000	-	-	-
Net assets, beginning of year	4,608,328	784,554	5,392,882	1,389,597	6,782,479
Net assets, end of year	\$4,976,792	\$782,790	\$5,759,582	\$1,702,609	\$7,462,191

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