

# Speaker Biographies

## Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review Conference

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VANDERBILT  Law School

**Frederick Alexander**

Frederick Alexander is Founder of The Shareholder Commons, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping shareholders protect common resources and vulnerable populations.

Rick practiced law for 26 years at a Wilmington-based firm, including four years as managing partner. He was selected as one of the ten most highly regarded corporate governance lawyers worldwide and as one of the 500 leading lawyers in the United States. In 2015, Rick became Head of Legal Policy at B Lab, where he worked to create sustainable corporate governance structures around the globe. He left that position in 2019 to develop The Shareholder Commons.

The Shareholder Commons is a non-profit organization promoting a shift in principles for managing private capital: asset owners must move beyond the self-defeating focus on individual company value and turn instead to a holistic approach centered around preserving the value of social and environmental systems. This new paradigm ensures that companies account not just for financial return, but also for the impacts that they have on the economy, society and the environment. TSC promotes this philosophy by pursuing changes in the law, changes in social norms and changes in investor and company behavior.

**James Andrus**

James Andrus is an Investment Manager in Board Governance and Sustainability at the California Employees Retirement System (CalPERS). CalPERS' is the largest public pension system in the United States with approximately \$450 billion in global assets. James leads the legal and regulatory financial market agenda focused on data and corporate reporting transparency.

James is a member of the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council (FASAC) which advises the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) on strategic and technical issues, project priorities and other matters impacting financial accounting and reporting standards in the United States. He has recently joined the FASAC steering committee which determines the FASAC agenda. He represents the Council of Institutional Investors (CII) on the International Accounting Standards Board Advisory Committee which advises the IFRS Foundation trustees and the International Accounting Standards Board on strategic and technical matters involving international financial reporting for over 140 countries. He is Chair of the Disclosure and Transparency Committee of the International Corporate Governance Network and the former Co-Chair of the International Committee of the CII.

Prior to joining CalPERS in 2014, James served as a Corporate and Investment Management Equity Partner at the law firm K&L Gates working on mergers and acquisitions. In his practice, he reviewed the primary documentation for more than 200 alternative investment funds on behalf of various institutional investors, including more than 50 buyout funds. He also served as a board member for the Seattle Alternative Investment Association, hosting the quarterly meetings for more than 4 years.

James has been a frequent presenter on corporate governance and ESG related topics. He has twice testified before the US House of Representatives, Committee on Financial Services, subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets focused on climate change, human capital and board diversity issues. Recent speaking engagements include serving on a panel on human capital management at the 25th Annual Stanford Director's College, a market infrastructure and corporate governance panel at the Annual Meeting of the World Federation of Exchanges in Athens, and sharing the investor view on corporate governance at an International Federation of Accountants Chief Executives Forum. James also served as a speaker for the technology focused Governance Fundamentals: Benchmarking, a Rock Center Program and at a Weinberg Center presentation for corporate governance on investment issues associated with non-voting stock.

James served as a Quartermaster Captain in the military with service in supply units in South Korea, basic training units in New Jersey, and as an environmental compliance officer in Colorado. James also served as a diversity outreach officer and recruiter for West Point.

James is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law where he served as the President of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society and the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was a college cheerleader.

#### **Jessica R. Bell**

Jessica R. Bell is the deputy director at NYU School of Law's State Energy & Environmental Impact Center. She previously served as the clean energy attorney at the Center, focusing on energy law issues at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and on state energy policy matters. Immediately prior to joining the Center, she was an associate at Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP. She was also an honors fellow in the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a law clerk to the Honorable Andrew M. Mead of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Jessica is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Law and Wellesley College, cum laude.

#### **Linda Breggin**

Linda Breggin has served as a senior attorney with the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C., for over 20 years. Her legal and policy research focuses on agriculture, food waste, non-point and point source water pollution, and environmental enforcement. During the 1990s, she was counsel with LeBoeuf Lamb Greene & MacRae in Washington. She also served as the special assistant to the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement program, as counsel to a U.S. House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Subcommittee and as the associate director for toxics and environmental education in the White House Office on Environmental Policy.

#### **Michael Burger**

Michael Burger is the Executive Director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, and a Senior Research Scholar at Columbia Law School. His research and advocacy focus on legal strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote climate change adaptation through pollution control, resource management, land use planning and green finance. He is the editor of two recent books: *Combating Climate Change with Section 115 of the Clean Air Act: Law and Policy Rationales* (2020) and *Climate Change, Public Health and the Law* (2018). He also is of counsel at the environmental law firm Sher Edling LLP. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School and of Brown University and holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Creative Writing program at NYU.

#### **Margaret Claybour**

Margaret is one of the four founding partners of Rock Creek Energy Group. She has over 18 years of experience counseling and representing a broad swath of electric industry participants on a wide range of federal energy regulatory and administrative litigation matters. She provides strategic counsel to investor-owned utilities, renewable and conventional generators, private equity and institutional investors, developers, and renewable energy providers on transactional, regulatory, and litigation matters.

Margaret counsels clients in commercial transactions involving FERC-jurisdictional assets, including regulatory due diligence related to the potential acquisition or financing of energy assets; corporate reorganizations, acquisitions or divestitures under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act (FPA); market-based and formula rates under Section 205 of the FPA; issuance of securities under Section 204 of the FPA; and obtaining certifications for exempt wholesale generators and qualifying facilities under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005 and the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, respectively. Among other things, Margaret represents clients in administrative litigation matters before FERC, including RTO/ISO generation and transmission interconnection issues.

**Madison Condon**

Madison Condon is an associate professor at Boston University School of Law where she teaches environmental law and corporations. A focus of her recent scholarship is climate change's relationship to corporate governance, market risk, and regulation. She is also interested in the use and manipulation of science and economics in administrative law. Professor Condon holds a JD from Harvard Law School, an MALD from Tufts University's Fletcher School, and a BS in Earth and Environmental Engineering from Columbia University. She was a Fulbright Fellow to the Netherlands where she researched water resources management at the Delft University of Technology.

**Carol Monahan Cummings**

Carol Monahan Cummings was appointed Chief Counsel at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in October 2003 and was reappointed by Governor Brown in December 2012. In this capacity, Ms. Cummings advises the Director, other Executive Office members, as well as OEHHA staff on all legal matters affecting the Office. Principal areas of practice include: Proposition 65 implementation, developing and amending various regulations, serving as counsel for the Carcinogen Identification Committee, the Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant Committee, and the California Biomonitoring Scientific Guidance Panel as well as serving as liaison to the Attorney General's Office for all lawsuits where OEHHA is a party.

Prior to coming to OEHHA Ms. Cummings served as an Assistant General Counsel for the California Environmental Protection Agency between September 2001 and October 2003. She was primarily responsible for providing legal support for the Environmental Justice program, legal advice concerning ethics and personnel issues for the Agency as well as for coordinating cross-media enforcement task forces, investigations and related litigation.

Before coming to Cal/EPA, Ms. Cummings was a prosecutor with Sacramento County where she prosecuted criminal and civil environmental enforcement cases including illegal hazardous waste transportation, storage and disposal cases; and water and air pollution cases.

Ms. Cummings received her law degree from Empire College School of Law in Santa Rosa, California where she graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1995.

**Miles Farmer**

Miles Farmer is a legal advisor to Commissioner Allison Clements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Prior to his current role, Miles focused energy policy, law and strategy via private practice, as well as non-profit, and government service. Most recently, he was an independent consultant for clean energy companies, associations, advocacy organizations, and foundations. Previously, he served as a Senior Policy Advisor on Governor Cuomo's energy team, coordinating with agency leadership across all of New York State's energy-related agencies and authorities to develop, manage, and execute all of the State's major energy policy initiatives. Miles also served as a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council, where he played an integral role in developing the institution's strategy for shaping wholesale energy market rules to facilitate the continued rapid integration of clean energy into the grid, while also engaging in advocacy at the state level in New York and other jurisdictions. Miles began his legal career as an associate at Latham & Watkins LLP. He clerked for Judge Debra Ann Livingston on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and attended Yale Law School.

**Steve Goldstein**

Steve Goldstein is a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland and an NYU State Impact Center Fellow. His work focuses on ensuring that federal regulations adequately protect the state of Maryland, its residents, and natural resources. Before joining the Attorney General's office Steve worked for Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club in Washington D.C. Steve holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Maryland where he also completed his undergraduate studies. He is an avid birder, amateur naturalist, and proud resident of Baltimore, Maryland.

**Radley Horton**

Radley Horton is a Research Professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. His research focuses on climate extremes, tail risks, climate impacts, and adaptation. Radley was a Convening Lead Author for the Third National Climate Assessment, and served on the Sea Level Rise and Climate Scenarios Task Forces for the Fourth National Climate Assessment. He is the Lead Principal Investigator for the NOAA-Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments-funded Consortium for Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast. Radley also teaches in Columbia University's Sustainable Development department. Radley is a leading climate science communicator, appearing regularly on television, radio, and in print.

**Natasha Lamb**

A leader in impact investing, Natasha works with high-net-worth individuals, families, and institutions to integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors into their investments, while engaging major corporations to improve their performance through shareholder activism. Named by Bloomberg Businessweek as one of the "Bloomberg 50" most influential people who defined global business in 2017, Natasha was also featured on the cover of the magazine in June 2017. In 2018, she was named to InStyle magazine's "The Badass 50: women who are changing the world" list and in 2019 she was honored by the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus with the Abigail Adams Award. Natasha has been profiled in Forbes, Fast Company, and the Boston Globe, while her work has been featured in Rolling Stone, the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times, as well as on NPR and CNN. In 2016, Natasha received the Upstart Business Journal Upstart 100 Award and the Aiming High Award from Legal Momentum for pioneering a shareholder campaign on gender pay equity. Her 2014 landmark negotiation with Exxon Mobil led to the company's first public report on global warming and carbon asset risk. Natasha is a trustee of The Food Project and Chairman of the Intentional Endowments Network. She holds an M.B.A in Sustainable Business from Presidio Graduate School, where she taught sustainable investing for 5 years. Natasha received her B.A. cum laude from Mount Holyoke College.

**Charles Lee**

Charles Lee is widely recognized as a true pioneer in the arena of environmental justice and helped to give birth to the environmental justice movement in the United States some forty years ago. He was the principal author of the landmark 1987 report, *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States*, organized the historic 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, and helped to spearhead the emergence of federal environmental justice policy, including Executive Order 12898, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

Mr. Lee is currently the Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He led the development and implementation of EPA's agency-wide environmental justice strategic plans, e.g., Plan EJ 2014 and EJ 2020. He has served in multiple capacities, ranging from creating the United Church of Christ's environmental justice program to directing EPA's environmental justice office. He was a charter member of the NEJAC, where he chaired its Waste and Facility Siting committee, and served on the National Academy of Science/Institute of Medicine Committee on Environmental Justice as well as numerous other panels. In these capacities, he led efforts to incorporate environmental justice into EPA's rulemaking process, develop models for collaborative problem-solving, transform brownfields redevelopment into a community revitalization paradigm, advance approaches to address cumulative risks and impacts, lay a strong science foundation for integrating environmental justice into decision-making, and advancing environmental justice at the state level.

Mr. Lee has authored numerous papers, reports, journals, and articles on environmental justice over the past four decades, most recently on "Confronting Disproportionate Impacts and Systemic Racism in Environmental Policy" (*Environmental Law Reporter*, vol. 51, no. 3, March 2021). He has taught or presented at numerous schools and conferences, including the seminal academic conference on "Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards" at

the University of Michigan. He is the recipient of many awards for his work, including the American Public Health Association's first Damu Smith Environmental Achievement Award. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy presented to him the EJ Pioneer Award on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 12898. In February 2017, the 122nd Session of the South Carolina House of Representatives passed Resolution H\*3732 to honor his lifetime of accomplishments in environmental justice and contributions to bettering the lives of communities in that state.

### **Hampden T. Macbeth**

Hampden T. Macbeth is a staff attorney at NYU School of Law's State Energy & Environmental Impact Center. In that role, he has contributed to many State Impact Center reports on the work of state attorneys general in the environmental, clean energy, and climate space and edited a book, *Looking Back to Move Forward: Resolving Health & Environmental Crises*, that was published by ELI Press last year. He previously served as a senior legislative assistant for Congressman Adam Schiff, working on transportation, environmental, and energy issues, and as an institute fellow at the Georgetown Climate Center. Hampden is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, cum laude, and Occidental College, cum laude.

### **Joshua Macey**

Joshua Macey is an assistant professor at the University of Chicago Law School. He specializes in energy law, environmental law, bankruptcy, and the regulation of financial institutions. His work has been featured in the *Financial Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Bloomberg's Money Stuff*, and has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Harvard Law Review*, the *Michigan Law Review*, the *Stanford Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, and the *Yale Law Journal*. His *Vanderbilt Law Review* Article, *Zombie Energy Laws*, was awarded the 2020 Morrison Prize, which recognizes the most impactful sustainability-related legal academic article published in North America during the previous year.

Macey graduated from Yale College, the London School of Economics, and Yale Law School. He has worked at Morgan Stanley and clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III on the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

### **Anne Simpson**

Anne Simpson joined CalPERS in 2009 and was named managing investment director for Board Governance & Sustainability in November 2020.

She is responsible for strategic initiatives across the Fund. These include Climate Action 100+ (a global investor alliance of \$40 trillion driving business action on climate change), the Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance, and the UN Secretary General's Global Investors for Sustainable Development. Specific programs within investments include the Emerging Manager Program and the sustainable investment strategic plan.

In 2019 she was named by Time Magazine as one of the 15 women leading the global fight on climate change and in 2020 one of the 100 Most Influential Women in US Finance by Barron's (Dow Jones). For 10 consecutive years from 2010-20 Anne has been ranked by the National Association of Corporate Directors as one of the year's 100 most influential people in the boardroom.

She serves on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Investor Advisory Committee, as well as the Senior Advisory Board at the Center for Responsible Business at Haas, University of California at Berkeley. She also serves on the Leadership Council of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. Anne is an editorial board member of the journal "Directors & Boards."

Anne has published several books in the field of Board Governance and Sustainability including "The Financial Ecosystem: The Role of Finance in Achieving Sustainability" with Satyajit Bose and Dong Guo of Columbia

University; “Fair Shares: the Future of Shareholder Power and Responsibility” with Jonathan Charkham; and “The Greening of Global Investment: How the Environment, Ethics and Politics Are Reshaping Strategies.”

Previous roles included senior faculty fellow and lecturer at the Yale School of Management, head of the Global Corporate Governance Forum at the World Bank, executive director of the International Corporate Governance Network, and joint managing director of Pensions & Investment Research Consultants Ltd.

Anne graduated from Oxford University in the United Kingdom, where she read philosophy, politics and economics and was awarded bachelor’s and master’s degrees. She was a Slater Fellow at Wellesley College, Massachusetts.

### **Joanne Spalding**

Joanne Spalding is Deputy Legal Director and Chief Climate Counsel at the Sierra Club, where she has worked for over 20 years. She directs the Sierra Club’s federal and state climate litigation and regulatory work. She serves as lead counsel for Sierra Club in litigation over EPA’s greenhouse gas regulations. Previously, she litigated numerous challenges to coal-fired power plants and highway projects. She formerly worked in private practice representing labor unions in environmental cases. She received her B.A. with honors from Northwestern University and her J.D. Order of the Coif from the University of California Hastings College of the Law. She clerked for the Honorable Melvin Brunetti of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

### **Stacey VanBelleghem**

Stacey VanBelleghem is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Latham & Watkins. She represents clients in a variety of industry sectors on major project infrastructure and development, administrative petitions and rulemaking, and litigation under federal environmental law.

Stacey has represented numerous clients on air quality and climate change issues, with an emphasis on the regulation of criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from major stationary sources. She has also led clients in supporting policies to promote electric vehicle and other advanced transportation technologies and related infrastructure. Stacey was recognized as an Up and Coming environmental lawyer in Washington, D.C. by Chambers USA 2020 and acknowledged in Legal 500-Environmental Regulatory for “particular expertise in climate change and air quality matters.”

She has served on the firm’s Diversity Leadership Committee, Associates Committee, and Pro Bono Committee. Before becoming an attorney, Stacey worked at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and also at the National Park Service.

### **Michael Vandenberg**

Michael Vandenberg is a leading scholar in environmental and energy law whose research explores the relationship between formal legal regulation and informal social regulation of individual and corporate behavior. His work with Vanderbilt’s Climate Change Research Network involves interdisciplinary teams that focus on the reduction of carbon emissions from the individual and household sector. His corporate work explores private environmental governance and the influence of social norms on firm behavior and the ways in which private contracting can enhance or undermine public governance. Before joining Vanderbilt’s law faculty, Professor Vandenberg was a partner at a national law firm in Washington, D.C. He served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 1993 to 1995. He began his career as a law clerk for Judge Edward R. Becker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1987-88. In addition to directing Vanderbilt’s Climate Change Research Network, Professor Vandenberg serves as co-director of the law school’s Energy, Environment and Land Use Program. He was named a David Daniels Allen Distinguished Professor of Law in fall 2013. A recipient of the Hall-Hartman Teaching Award, he teaches courses in environmental law, energy, and property. Professor Vandenberg has been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago Law School and at Harvard Law School. He is a fellow of the

American College of Environmental Lawyers and a member of the Board on Environmental Change and Society of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

### **Jessica Wentz**

Jessica Wentz is a non-resident senior fellow at Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Her work has spanned a variety of topics related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Much of her research focuses on the role of climate science in litigation, environmental impact assessment, and natural resource management. Jessica previously worked as a Visiting Associate Professor and Environmental Program Fellow at the George Washington University Law School, where she received an LL.M. in Energy and Environmental law. She also has a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. in international development from the University of California, Los Angeles.

### **Benjamin F. Wilson**

Benjamin F. Wilson is the Chairman of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., a top-ranked law firm focused on environmental and natural resource law and litigation. He represents major corporations, developers, and municipalities in complex litigation matters involving Clean Water Act enforcement, wetlands development, Superfund and environmental justice matters. He served as the Deputy Monitor for Emissions & Environmental in the Volkswagen AG emissions proceedings and served as the Court-Appointed Monitor for the Duke Energy coal ash spill remediation project.

A tireless advocate for diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, in 2021, Lawyers of Color Names Ben Wilson Among the 10 Most Influential Black Lawyers of the Decade. In 2020, Mr. Wilson received The Honorable Annice M. Wagner Pioneer Award from the District of Columbia Bar, elected to the American Law Institute, inducted into the Washington Bar Association's Hall of Fame, awarded the Cora T. Walker Award from the National Bar Association Commercial Law Section, and featured in the National Law Journal's cover story "The Vanguard and the Vision." In 2019, he received the National Bar Association's Presidential Award, and in 2018, NAWL's Lead by Example Award and the UNCF's MASKED Award. He founded and leads the African American General Counsel and Managing Partner Networks and Diverse Partners Network.

Mr. Wilson graduated from Dartmouth College and from Harvard Law School. He has served as Chairman of the Environmental Law Institute since 2016. Mr. Wilson serves on the Judicial Nomination Commission for the District of Columbia and the D.C. Bar Foundation Board, Board of Directors of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company and of PG&E Corporation. He previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College and the Board of Governors of the District of Columbia Bar. Mr. Wilson is also an Adjunct Professor in Environmental Law at the Howard University School of Law.

### **Elizabeth Yeampierre**

Elizabeth Yeampierre is an internationally recognized Puerto Rican attorney of African and Indigenous ancestry and environmental/climate justice leader who is the executive director of UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Puerto Rican community-based organization. She is also the Co-Chair of a national alliance called Climate Justice Alliance and the co-founder of #OurPowerPRnyc. Her award-winning vision for an inter-generational, multi-cultural and community-led organization is the driving force behind UPROSE. She is a long-time advocate and trailblazer for community organizing around just, sustainable development, environmental justice, and community-led climate adaptation and community resiliency in Sunset Park. In addition to that, she was recognized in 2015 by Vogue as a Climate Warrior and one of the 13 women on the frontline fighting against Climate Change. Ms. Yeampierre has been a featured speaker at local, national and international forums including Sage Paris 2015, 2016 GRI Amsterdam, White House Forum on Environmental Justice, Yale, Harvard, Cooper Union, Columbia, and universities, colleges, and conferences all over the country and spoke at the opening climate rally for Pope Francis at the National Mall, The Battle for Paradise at Cooper Union with Naomi Klein. Her work is featured in several books, in addition, being

featured in Latina Magazine, VOGUE, Vanity Fair, The Guardian, Grist, American Prospect, Al Jazeera, Huffington Post, Democracy Now, The Intercept, and a variety of media outlets throughout the United States, Latin America, and Europe. In 2014, Ms. Yeampierre was part of the leadership of the People's Climate March Mobilization – a march of over 400,000 people across New York City. She played a major role in ensuring the frontline was made up of young people of color, and successfully proposed the adoption of the Jemez principles for democratic organizing, which have since become the roadmap to building just relationships in the climate justice movement. Elizabeth was recently featured in the NY Times as a visionary paving the path to Climate Justice. In 2018, she was awarded Frederick Douglass Abolitionist Award FD200, she recently was named by Apolitical as Climate 100: The World's Most Influential People in Climate Policy, and spoken at Oxford University, and the Ethos Conference in Brazil.