Environmental Justice
ELI Summer School, 2021

Rue Muza
Agenda

• EJ at the State Level
• EJ in Private Practice
• What Can You Do?
The majority of states have laws or policies that address EJ issues, though the extent varies widely.
State EJ Law and Policy

- **Agencies**
  - EJ agency subgroups, departments, advisory groups etc.
  - Interpretive EJ guidance and policy documents
  - EJ data tools

- **Legislature**

- **Courts**

- **NGOs**
## State EJ Law and Policy

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<tr>
<th>New Legislation</th>
<th>Increased Enforcement</th>
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<td><strong>New Jersey S. 232 (2020)</strong></td>
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<td>• Empowers NJDEP to restrict or deny permits for certain facilities based on EJ impacts.</td>
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<td><strong>Connecticut H.B. 7008 (2020)</strong></td>
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<td>• Requires towns with over 5 “affecting facilities” to work with new developers to lessen impacts</td>
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<td><strong>MD, NY, NC, VA (2018-2020)</strong></td>
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<td>• Recently established EJ advisory groups.</td>
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Private Practice

- Compliance
  - EJ 101
  - Benchmarking
  - Policies
Private Practice

- Litigation
  - Complaints
  - Defense
What can you do?

**Articles**
- United Church of Christ, *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States*

**Movies**
- Rise: Standing Rock [Parts I & II]
- Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek
- Beyond Recognition

**Books**
- David Naguib Pellow, *Garbage Wars: The Struggles for Environmental Justice in Chicago*
- Bullard, Robert D., *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality.*
- Dorceta Taylor, *Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility*
Increasing numbers of states have EJ mapping tools that can help regulators, business, and the public identify potential overburdened communities.

What can you do?

https://www.ceejhlab.org/mapping-tools
What can you do?

Donate

Get Involved

- WeACT
- Earthjustice
- DMV EJ Coalition
- NAACP (Environmental and Climate Justice Program)
- Sign-up for action alerts
- Political activism
- Shareholder activism
Thank you!

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