Lanessa Owens-Chaplin, Esq

Director of Environmental Justice Projects
The NYCLU believes a person’s quality of life should not depend on the color of their skin, their bank account, or their zip code. Our environmental justice work empowers low-wealth communities of color to decide the future of their neighborhoods and ensures that they have the resources to live full, healthy lives.
Challenges with Environmental Justice

• The standard for judicial review is highly deferential to the deciding agency, which can make difficult to prevail on claims.

• The standard major protections (NEPA, SEQR) are procedural - do not require best or desired incomes.
Community/Movement Lawyering
Community/Movement Lawyering

MARCH FOR JUSTICE FOR I-81


AUGUST 14TH
10:30AM - MARCH FROM STEAM AT DR. KING ELEMENTARY
12PM - PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING (333 E WASHINGTON ST.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DRURU@NYCLU.ORG, 315-526-2836 OR URBANJOBS@NYCLU.ORG

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Key Take Aways

• The Impacted Community Leads the Work
• Use all the tools in the toolbox
  • Organizing
  • Talk to agencies early and often
  • Submitting public comments and written testimony
  • Litigation/Administrative claim typically the last resort