

## **Climate Change Lawsuits Are Here: Are You Ready?**

**Monday, March 6, 2017**

**5:00- 6:45 P.M.**

**Osgoode Professional Development, 1 Dundas Street West, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor**

### Panellists:

**Andrew Gage, Staff Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law Association, Victoria**



A long-time environmentalist and environmental lawyer, Andrew leads West Coast's Climate Change program and its Climate Law in Our Hands initiative, [www.climatelawinourhands.org](http://www.climatelawinourhands.org). Climate Law in our Hands recently sent a letter, signed by more than 50 BC-based organizations, to all of the province's local governments asking them to take action, up to and including litigation, to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for their fair share of local climate costs. Climate Law in our Hands views a public conversation about the moral and legal responsibility of the fossil fuel industry to a foundation of effective global action on climate change. During law school, Andrew helped found the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre and volunteered with the noted Indian environmental lawyer, M.C. Mehta. These experiences changed his understanding of what is possible through law.

**Andrea Rodgers, Senior Attorney, Our Children's Trust & Of Counsel, Western Environmental Law Center, Seattle**



Andrea represents young people in their lawsuit against the State of Washington demanding that the State enact and enforce greenhouse gas emission reductions in line with current science. The lawsuit argues that the government has a constitutional obligation under the public trust doctrine to protect the public interest in natural resources held in trust for the common benefit of the people. Andrea serves as a Senior Attorney for Our Children's Trust, a non-profit organization based in Eugene, Oregon that advocates for urgent emissions reductions on behalf of youth and future generations, who have the most to lose if emissions are not reduced. Andrea received her J.D. from Arizona State University where she was co-executive editor of *Jurimetrics: The Journal of Law, Science and Technology*.

**Keith Stewart, Head of Climate and Energy Campaign, Greenpeace Canada, Toronto**



Keith Stewart is a senior energy strategist at Greenpeace Canada and teaches a course on energy policy at the University of Toronto. He is currently working as part of Greenpeace's global team on climate change legal efforts in Canada, the Pacific, the Philippines, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States.

**Chris Tollefson, Executive Director, Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation (CELL), Victoria**



Chris is the founding Executive Director of CELL and Professor of Law at the University of Victoria. Chris combines teaching and research on environmental issues with counsel work for various public interest environmental clients. He was counsel to BC Nature and Nature Canada during both the Enbridge Northern Gateway and Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline hearing processes. Currently he is counsel on a judicial review of an environmental assessment approval recently granted to a liquefied natural gas processing facility that, if built, will become one of the Canada's largest point source GHG emitters. Chris was the founding Executive Director of the UVic Environmental Law Centre, and a former President of Ecojustice Canada.

**Roda Verheyen, Partner, Rechtsanwälte Günther, Hamburg**



Roda is an environmental lawyer with many years' experience in international environmental law and policy and climate change campaigning in Europe. She represents Peruvian farmer Saul Luciano Lliuya in a German lawsuit demanding that German energy company RWE contribute to the cost of protecting a Peruvian village against the impacts of climate change. Roda is the author of *Climate Change Damage and International Law: Prevention Duties and State Responsibility* (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2005).

**Moderator: David Estrin, Counsel, Gowling WLG & Adjunct Professor and part-time Academic Co-Director, Osgoode Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic, Toronto**



David Estrin is recognized as Canada's senior environmental law specialist, as well as for his international climate justice and human rights endeavours. In 2014 David co-chaired the International Bar Association Task Force that produced a ground breaking report, *Achieving Justice and Human Rights in an Era of Climate Disruption*. He currently co-chairs an IBA expert working group drafting a Model Climate Change Legal Remedies Statute. Recent research and activities have focussed on legal and institutional remedies for limiting greenhouse gas emissions and innovative approaches to address climate change loss and damage. For more than 40 years he has exclusively practised environmental and resources law, taught widely at law and environmental studies faculties and written leading legal texts. He was first general counsel for the Canadian Environmental Law Association, is Canada's first private environmental law practitioner and founding editor of the *Canadian Environmental Law Reports*. In 2016, David received the Law Society of Upper Canada Medal to recognize his outstanding career achievements and community contributions.

**SPECIAL GUEST: Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario**



Dianne was appointed Environmental Commissioner of Ontario in 2015. Her five-year appointment will be focused on serving the Ontario Legislature, improving the effectiveness of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* and catalyzing better environmental, energy and climate outcomes, for and with the people of Ontario.

She has 40 years' unparalleled experience writing, interpreting, and litigating Ontario's energy and environmental laws and has won numerous accolades, including top 25 environmental lawyers by Best of the Best, 2008 and as Best Lawyers' first Environmental Lawyer of the Year for Toronto. She has also received the Award for Distinguished Service, the highest honour granted by the Ontario Bar Association; and the Gold Key Award for exceptional lifetime professional achievement, granted by Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni

**Presented by**

Osgoode Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic <http://ejsclinic.info.yorku.ca>  
The York Research Chair in Environmental Law and Justice

**Coordinated by**

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David Estrin

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