FALL SYMPOSIUM

Environmental Justice

WHAT’S RACE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Wednesday, October 19 6:30pm
Columbia Law School
Jerome Greene Hall Room 103
435 W 116th St. New York, NY 10027
Fall Symposium
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: WHAT’S RACE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

The Columbia Journal of Race and Law and the Columbia Journal of Environmental Law are proud to present: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: WHAT’S RACE GOT TO DO WITH IT? This symposium features two panels that explore the intersection of environmental policy and race.

OPENING REMARKS

Kendall Thomas, Nash Professor of Law, Columbia Law School and Director, Center for the Study of Law and Culture.

PANEL 1: PLANTING THE ROOTS OF (IN)JUSTICE: PAST PRACTICES AND LAWS

The first panel will focus on an array of past policies, including the use of lead paint in public housing buildings, placement of landfills and certain industries near communities of color, and lack of access to recycling in certain neighborhoods.

MODERATOR:
- Michael Gerrard (CC '72), Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia Law School, and Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law.

PANELISTS:
- Christine Appah-Gyamfi, Senior Staff Attorney, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest;
- Al Huang, Director of Environmental Justice, Natural Resources Defense Council;
- Edward Lloyd, Evan M. Frankel Clinical Professor in Environmental Law, Columbia Law School;
- Peggy Shepard, Executive Director and Co-Founder, WE ACT for Environmental Justice.
The second panel will focus on the current water crisis occurring in communities of color across the United States, including a discussion around the lead-filled water in the City of Flint and how the Dakota Pipeline may affect clean water access for American Indians.

**Moderator:**
- Olatunde Johnson, Jerome B. Sherman Professor of Law and Vice Dean for Intellectual Life, Columbia Law School.

**Panelists:**
- Cecil D. Corbin-Mark, Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives, WE ACT for Environmental Justice;
- Christine Ernst, Associate Attorney, Earthjustice;
- Susan Kraham ’92, Senior Staff Attorney and Lecturer-in-Law, Columbia Law School;
- Steven McSloy, Partner, Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP and Lecturer-in-Law, Columbia Law School.
**SPEAKERS LIST**

**OPENING REMARKS**

**Kendall Thomas** is the Nash Professor of Law and co-founder and director of the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia Law School. His interests in research and teaching cover an array of topics, including U.S. and comparative constitutional law, human rights, legal philosophy, feminist legal theory, critical race theory, and law and sexuality. His writings have been published in numerous academic journals and volumes of collected essays. Professor Thomas is a co-editor of *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Founded the Movement*, The New Press, 1996, and *What’s Left of Theory?*, Routledge Press, 2000. Professor Thomas previously served as a visiting professor at Stanford Law School and as a visiting professor in American studies and Afro-American studies at Princeton University. He was an inaugural recipient of the Berlin Prize Fellowship of the American Academy in Berlin and a member of the Special Committee of the American Center in Paris. He earned his B.F.A at Yale College and his J.D. at Yale Law School.

**PANEL 1: PLANTING THE ROOTS OF (IN)JUSTICE: PAST PRACTICES AND LAWS**

**Moderator: Michael Gerrard (CC ’72)** is the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, serves as the director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, and chairs the faculty of Columbia University’s Earth Institute. At Columbia, Professor Gerrard teaches courses on environmental law, climate change law, and energy regulation. Professor Gerrard is ranked by several independent rating services as the leading environmental lawyer in New York and among the leading environmental lawyers worldwide. Prior to joining the Columbia faculty in 2009, he practiced environmental law, most recently as partner in charge of the New York office of Arnold & Porter, where he remains senior counsel. Professor Gerrard is a well-known writer in the field of environmental law and climate change. He has been recognized for his contributions by twice receiving the Association of American Publishers’ Best Law Book award for works on environmental law and brownfields. His work includes writing and editing eleven books, including *Global Climate Change and U.S. Law*, the leading work in its field (second edition published in 2014, co-edited with Jody Freeman), and the 12-volume *Environmental Law Practice Guide*. Professor Gerrard has previously served as chair of the American Bar Association’s 10,000-member section of environment, energy, and resources, the New York City Bar Association’s executive committee, and the New York State Bar Association’s environmental law section. In addition to teaching at Columbia, Professor Gerrard has taught at Yale School of Forestry, Universite Paris 1 Panteon-Sorbonne, and Vermont Law School. Professor Gerrard earned his J.D. from N.Y.U. School of Law and his bachelor’s degree from Columbia University.
Panel 1: Planting the Roots of (In)Justice: Past Practices and Laws

Christine Appah-Gyamfi is a senior staff attorney in the Environmental Justice Program with the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI). Her practice revolves around urban environmental health issues and sustainability. Ms. Appah-Gyamfi’s commitment to environmental justice was sparked by her prior work in an undergraduate research program on childhood asthma rates and air quality at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Previously, she worked to preserve safe and affordable housing for vulnerable families as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society. There, Ms. Appah-Gyamfi participated in litigation, legislative advocacy, and community outreach. Before working with NYLPI, she held the position of regional director at the New York State Division of Human Rights. Ms. Appah-Gyamfi graduated magna cum laude from The City College of New York and earned her J.D. from Duke University School of Law.

Al Huang is the Director of Environmental Justice and a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Mr. Huang’s practice emphasizes community-led initiatives and he advocates in partnerships with low-income communities and communities of color nationwide that are combatting environmental hazards. Prior to joining the NRDC in 2005, he served as an attorney for several community-based environmental justice and civil rights organizations in California. He currently sits on the Environmental Justice Committee of the American Bar Association. Mr. Huang also lectures as an adjunct professor of law at Fordham School of Law. He earned his J.D. and a master’s degree in environmental law and policy from Vermont Law School.
Panel 1: Planting the Roots of (In)Justice: Past Practices and Laws

Edward Lloyd is the Evan M. Frankel Clinical Professor in Environmental Law at Columbia Law School. Professor Lloyd is a foremost expert on issues in environmental law and citizen suit litigation. Professor Lloyd has testified in front of both the Senate and the House of Representatives committees on environmental enforcement. He is a member of the Earth Institute’s Academic Committee, the Litigation Review Committee of the Environmental Defense Fund, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, and the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Environmental Litigation. Prior to joining Columbia Law School, Professor Lloyd co-founded and served as a co-director of the Eastern Environmental Law Center, a nonprofit environmental law firm in Newark, New Jersey. Professor Lloyd was also the founding director of the Rutgers University Law School Environmental Law Clinic from 1985 to 2000. Professor Lloyd has lectured on citizen suit litigation at the Practicing Law Institute, American Law Institute, and the American Bar Association, as well as on environmental legal issues at Judicial College for New Jersey judges. Professor Lloyd received an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Princeton University and earned his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

Peggy Shepard is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of WE ACT for Environmental Justice. Ms. Shepard has become one of the most highly respected environmental advocates in the country through her work combining grassroots organizing, environmental advocacy, and environmental health research. Her organization, WE ACT, founded in 1988 in West Harlem, has a history of affecting environmental and environmental health policy and practice locally and nationally. She is a trailblazer in promoting environmental justice in urban communities to ensure the promise of clean air, water, and soil extends to all people. Ms. Shepard is the former chair of the EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and she currently co-chairs its Research and Science Workgroup. Ms. Shepard has earned numerous awards for her environmental advocacy and engagement with community residents on environmental issues, including the 10th Annual Heinz Award for the Environment, an Honorary Doctor of Science from Smith College, and the 2008 Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rockefeller Foundation. Ms. Shepard has published research articles in Environmental Health Perspectives and the American Journal of Public Health. She serves on several governmental and academic advisory boards as well as on nonprofit boards, including the Environmental Defense Fund, Earth Day NY, NY League of Conservation Voters, NY Audubon, and the News Corporation Diversity Council. She is a graduate of Howard University and the Solebury and Newtown Friends schools.
M O D E R A T O R :  O l a t u n d e  J o h n s o n is the Jerome B. Sherman Professor of Law and Vice Dean for Intellectual Life at Columbia Law School. At Columbia, Professor Johnson teaches civil procedure, legislation, and writes about modern civil rights legislation, congressional power, and innovations to address discrimination and inequality. Professor Johnson clerked for David Tatel on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and for Justice John Paul Stevens on the United States Supreme Court. Additionally, she served as constitutional and civil rights counsel to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prior to that, she worked at the NAACP Legal Defense fund, where she conducted trial and appellate litigation on behalf of racial and ethnic equality in employment, health, and higher education. In 2016, Professor Johnson was recognized for her outstanding qualities as an educator, receiving both the Law School’s Willis L.M. Reese Prize for Excellence in Teaching and the University’s Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching. Professor Johnson earned her J.D. from Stanford Law School and completed her undergraduate education at Yale University.

C e c i l  D.  C o r b i n - M a r k is the Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives of WE ACT for Environmental Justice. Mr. Corbin-Mark is dedicated to improving his community in the Hamilton Heights neighborhood in Harlem. In his community, Mr. Corbin-Mark previously served as the Vice-President of the neighborhood association and as Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Committee of the Community Planning Board. Mr. Corbin-Mark also dedicates his time to mentoring young people in his community through Friends of Island Academy – a program that assists formerly incarcerated teens, has served as a big brother to local young men and women, and has financed and run summer youth basketball teams. Mr. Corbin-Mark has also sat on several environmental boards, coalitions, and committees, including New York Jobs with Justice, Center for Environmental Health, Urban Wet Weather FACA for the U.S. EPA, the New York State DEC Urban Air Toxic Committee, New York State Cumulative Risk Assessment Work Group, New York City DEP Water Quality Citizen Advisory Committee, Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board, Clean Air Network, Association for Clean Water Action, Clean Products/Clean Production Network, Environmental Justice Fund, Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods, and the NYC Environmental Education Advisory Council. Mr. Corbin-Mark also serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the Northeast Environmental Justice Network. He has lectured on environmental issues and environmental justice at numerous institutions, including Hunter College, Teacher’s College, The College of Mount St. Vincent, Buffalo State, Cornell University, Yale School of Forestry, and Columbia University School of Public Health. Mr. Corbin-Mark was a political science major at Hunter College, C.U.N.Y. and completed his graduate studies in political science at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.
**Christine Ernst** is an associate attorney at the New York office of Earthjustice, a nonprofit law firm dedicated to protecting the magnificent places, natural resources, and wildlife of this earth, and to defending the right of all people to a healthy environment. Her work spans multiple issue areas, including the regulation of toxic substances, civil rights enforcement, food safety, and curbing the use of fossil fuels. Ms. Ernst is a graduate of NYU Law School, where she was the Notes Editor on the Environmental Law Journal. She also earned a B.A. from Swarthmore College, where she wrote her honors thesis on “Iraq’s Water Crisis: Strategies and Solutions for Water Management in the Agricultural Sector.” Before coming to Earthjustice, she represented individuals, nonprofits and community organizations in environmental litigation at Stack & Associates, P.C. and GreenLaw in Atlanta, Georgia. She has also taken the bar exam in three states (Georgia, Pennsylvania, and New York), and has no intention of ever subjecting herself to another.

**Susan Kraham ’92** is a senior staff attorney and lecturer in law at Columbia Law School’s Environmental Law Clinic. Ms. Kraham has dedicated her legal career to representing public interest clients, particularly on environmental issues and land use law. She previously served as counsel to the New Jersey Audubon Society. Before joining Columbia’s Environmental Law Clinic, Ms. Kraham was an associate clinical professor in the Environmental Law Clinic at Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey. Ms. Kraham clerked for the Honorable Justice Gary Stein of the New Jersey Supreme Court. She was both a Skadden fellow and an Echoing Green fellow, and during that time she partnered on a community-based environmental justice project. Ms. Kraham earned her J.D. from Columbia Law School and holds a master’s degree from New York University’s Wagner School.

**Steven McSloy** is a partner at Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP and lecturer in law at Columbia Law School. Mr. McSloy is recognized as one of the nation’s leading experts on Native American Law. He has worked on some of the largest and most complex financial transactions in Indian country. He has also published eight law review articles on sovereignty issues. Previously, Mr. McSloy served as the General Counsel for the Oneida Indian Nation of New York and its Turning Stone Casino Resort. He has also taught as a professor of American Indian Law at N.Y.U., Fordham, Cardozo, St. John’s, and Syracuse Law Schools. Mr. McSloy is a member of the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the Oneida Indian Nation Courts, and the New York State Courts. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and a bachelor’s degree from N.Y.U. where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.