UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON LAW CENTER
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center

2020 In Review Newsletter

Directors' Note

2020 was a bittersweet year for us at the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Center (EENRC). We had much to be proud of as we've seen the success and perseverance of our students, former students, faculty, the city, and our community. We have had to pivot our programs, our teaching, our fundraising, our outreach, our communications, and our collaborations to overcome the challenges of a year like no other. We witnessed the devastation of Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lasting psychological and economic damage. We also witnessed the heartbreaking resilience of many of our Black and Brown students and alumni, who have had to bear the burden of the pandemic, racial injustice, and the ever-present climate crisis and disproportionate structural inequities and barriers to success.

As we move into 2021, however, we anticipate a year marked by a return to hope of empowerment and resilience. We are seeing a return to normalcy, with people being able to gather safely, with students being able to return to campus, with the ground, and most in support. Our current and former students are being sworn in as elected officials, are being appointed to important positions, are finally receiving the fellowships that they deserved in years passed, and they are the future of our city, our state, our nation, our world.

EENRC remains committed to the energy transition and promoting a focus on education and analysis at the intersection of climate change, energy production, pollution management, and natural resources. We more boldly, not more quietly, pursue our mission.

Sincerely, Sandra B. Zellmer & Vicky M. Flatt

Alumni Spotlight

Rachel Kuykendall, Class of 2020, has joined the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Congressional Fellowship Program as an Energy Policy Fellow. We are disappointed to see Rachel go, but we are very proud of her and her commitment to supporting environmental justice, climate change, and community development," said Vicky Flatt, Director of the EENRC and CEL. For more details, see **https://law.uh.edu/news/congressional-black-caucus-foundation-announces-graduate-school-fellows/** and **https://law.uh.edu/news/2020/rachel-kuykendall/**.

Speaker and Conference Highlights

2nd Annual Geneva v. Wright International Energy Tax Conference and the Houston Business and Tax Law Center's Tax Law Institute

On February 28, 2020, EENRC Faculty Director Vicky Flatt and the Houston Business and Tax Law Center co-hosted the 2nd Annual Geneva v. Wright International Energy Tax Conference in Houston, Texas. The array conference brought together over 100 attorneys, accountants, and other professionals for an update discussion addressing international energy cross-border tax and investment matters as well as tax and investment issues arising out of the coronavirus pandemic. The speakers, all of whom are Tax Law Institute Regent Rating, very also invested in having the time for 2019 GPR speaking series competition winning speaker, Professor Ernesto Cordero-Moss, Professor Jeffrey Kahn, Professor Ruth Mason, Professor Stephen Shay, Professor Kim Brunow, Kevin Bennett, Peter Spencer, Matthew Wilson, & Dave Thomson Knight.

4th Annual North American Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Conference

On March 6, 2020, the EENRC co-hosted the 4th Annual Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Conference, which focused on: "The New Administration's Impact on Energy and Environmental Law." The one-day virtual forum at the event attracted up to a hundred registrants from more than 30 states and Canada. Speakers included Commissioner Jeffrey Lamb of the Texas Railroad Commission, Texas's Chief Environmental Prosecutor, Natural Resources Chief, Texas Attorney General's Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the EENRC. We also had the conference with a virtual roundtable discussion featuring commissioners of the Commission on Environmental Quality, Commissioner Jeffrey Lamb, Commissioner Bryan Shaw, Commissioner Emily Sarna, Chief Engineer, Director, Faculty of Law, The National Energy Commission of Mexico, Faculty of Law and the TXL Energy Transition Conference & Lab.

Book Highlights

Joseph Mason's Recent Scholarship: Mortgage Securitization and Its Discontents, Mortgage Securitization and Its Discontents, Mortgage Securitization and Its Discontents, Mortgage Securitization and Its Discontents, Mortgage Securitization and Its Discontents

Vicky Flatt, Kim Brunow, Peter Kiernan, Ruth Mason, Jeffrey Kahn, Stephen Shay, Ernesto Cordero-Moss, Jeffrey Lamb, Bryan Shaw, Emily Sarna, Ernesto Cordero-Moss, Kevin Bennett, Peter Spencer, Matthew Wilson, Dave Thomson Knight

Donor: Texas State Bar Oil and Gas Section
Recipients: Stuart Cobb & Erin L. Horan

Buck J. Wynne Memorial scholarship
The State Bar of Texas Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section established this scholarship in memory of Buck J. Wynne, a prominent environmental attorney who died in 1996. It is awarded to the top students in an introductory environmental law class.
Donor: State Bar of Texas Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section
Recipients: Kara L. Bagg & Zain Hassan

ConocoPhilips Energy Studies Award
This award is presented to a third-year law student in the Energy Studies Program on the basis of scholarship and interest in the field.
Donor: ConocoPhilips, Inc.
Recipient: Seungho Kang

Marie Sklodowska-Curie Scholarship

The Project TGL is a research project funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement n° 845118.

The 'Energy Transition Governance and Law' Project at the University of Houston Law Center aims to analyze the role of non-state actors in the governance and the implementation of Energy Transition. In this regard, it undertakes to understand how non-state actors are contributing to the implementation of the transition to low carbon economy from the international and comparative perspective of energy law and policy. Moreover, it undertakes to comprehend non-state actors' activities, as to climate litigation for instance, which will enable a better identification of their role as climate litigation drivers through the Paris Agreement in this constrained context of transition. The project is based on the premise that a significant achievement of energy transition should necessarily be envisaged in the particular backdrop of energy democracy, convening in this regard all relevant stakeholders, most specifically both state and non-state actors.

Activities:

Webinar on "Energy Democracy and Deep Decarbonization", convened by Environment Energy and Natural Resources Center, University of Houston Law Center, focusing on « Non-Profit Energy Cooperatives as the Catalyst of the Movement of People to Renewable Electricity », with Professors Melissa Scanlan (Vermont Law School/Boston College Law School) and Gabe Pacyniak (University of New Mexico, School of Law), and Aubin Nzaou (University of Houston Law Center) (April 3rd, 2020).

1st Annual Virtual Symposium on Global Energy Transition Law and Policy, convened by the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Center, University of Houston Law Center, under the general theme "Energy Transition in a Climate-Constrained World" (April 17th, 2020).

Virtual Panel "USMCA, Energy, Environment, and Health Challenges" at the NACLE 2020 Annual Conference "USMCA, Energy, Environment, and Health Challenges", convened by the Center for US and Mexican Law, University of Houston Law Center, featuring Thomas Burelli (University of Ottawa), Louis de Fontenelle (Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour), Eric Goodchild (Dalhousie Schulich School of Law), and Aubin Nzaou (University of Houston Law Center) (November 13th, 2020).

Webinar on "The Role of Supply Chain Management in Environmental Governance," convened by the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Center, University of Houston Law Center, featuring Professor Lee Paddock (George Washington University Law School) with Victor Flatt (University of Houston Law Center), (December 17th, 2020).

Upcoming Events

On Thursday, January 21st, 2021 at 4:00 pm (CST), Professor Roy Partain, University of Aberdeen, School of Law, will talk about Offshore Methane Hydrates - The Biggest Hidden Issue in Energy Law.

On Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00 am (CST), Professor Alexandra Klass, University of Minnesota Law School, will discuss about Eminent Domain Law as Climate Policy.

On Friday, March 12, 2021 at 10:00 am (CST), Professor Joshua Galperin, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, will discuss a topic about 'Uncommon Law: Judging in the Anthropocene' and delve into the comparison of the role of common law judging to private and administrative decision-making.

On Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:00 am (CST), Professor Uma Outka, University of Kansas School of Law, will discuss a topic at the intersection of energy law and environmental law which will be provided in due time.

On Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 10:00 am (CST), Professor Rebecca Bratspie, CUNY School of Law, will discuss about a topic about environmental law which will be provided in due time.

On Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 10:00 am (CST), Professor Lisa Benjamin Lewis & Clark Law School, will discuss about a topic related to Companies and Climate Change, from a comparative perspective in the United Kingdom and United States which will be provided in due time.

On Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 10:00 am (CST), Professor Tibisay Morgandi, Queen Mary University of London, School of Law, will talk about a topic related to international energy law which will be provided in due time.

The EENR Center would like to recognize and thank our current sponsors:

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