



## SABIN CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LAW



© Eileen Barroso/Columbia University Office of Public Affairs

The **Sabin Center for Climate Change Law** at Columbia Law School develops and promulgates legal techniques to address climate change and trains the next generation of lawyers who will be leaders in the field. The Sabin Center is a member center of the [Earth Institute](#) at Columbia University, and frequently collaborates with Earth Institute scientists on cutting edge interdisciplinary research. We are both a partner to and a resource for public interest legal

institutions engaged in climate change work. The Center's activities are spearheaded by Michael Gerrard, Faculty Director and Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, and Michael Burger, Executive Director and Research Scholar at Columbia Law School. The Center's thought leadership and direct engagement operate at the international, national, state and local levels.

### PROJECT AREAS

*The Sabin Center for Climate Change Law currently focuses its work within seven programmatic areas: The Clean Air Act, Environmental Assessment, Energy Law, Adaptation, Securities and Climate Finance, Natural Resources, and Human Rights.*

#### ➤ **Clean Air Act**

The Environmental Protection Agency has authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate mobile and stationary sources of greenhouse gases. The Sabin Center has been active in informing and defending EPA's affirmative regulations, in advocating for more ambitious action and in opposing deregulation by the Trump administration.

#### ➤ **Adaptation**

As well as taking steps to mitigate climate change, humanity must also find ways to adapt to it. The Sabin Center conducts research into how existing laws and regulations can be used to promote short and longer-term adaptation efforts within government and the private sector.

#### ➤ **Human Rights**

Climate change poses serious risks to human rights for individuals and communities around the world, including the rights to life, health, food, and an adequate standard of living. The global response to climate change also poses risks to human rights, as mitigation or adaptation projects threaten to displace or dispossess communities, potentially without adequate participation.

#### ➤ **Environmental Assessment**

The National Environmental Policy Act and its state and international analogs provide for the assessment of environmental impacts of proposed projects, plans and programs. The Sabin Center examines legal requirements and practices relating to the analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change on proposed projects under these statutes. The Sabin Center also submits comments to state and federal agencies undertaking environmental reviews.

#### ➤ **Energy Law**

The Sabin Center seeks to encourage a more rational accounting of climate change-related impacts of energy use and to advance the decarbonization of the energy sector in the U.S. and elsewhere. Our current efforts focus on federal and state laws and regulations relating to clean energy development and integration, utility regulation, and the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels.

*Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ColumbiaClimateLaw](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaClimateLaw)) and Twitter (@ColumbiaClimate)*

*Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School, Jerome Greene Hall, 435 W. 116th Street, New York NY*

### ➤ **Natural Resources**

Climate change is already affecting natural resources, with observed effects on the biophysical characteristics of habitats, the health and distribution of species, and the timing of critical biological events such as spring bud burst. Natural resource management decisions can also have implications for greenhouse gas emissions. The Sabin Center conducts work aimed at ensuring that decision-makers consider these effects when managing lands and resources.

### ➤ **Securities and Climate Finance**

The response to climate change demands the mobilization of billions of dollars to support mitigation and adaptation projects worldwide. Businesses and investors will also need to prepare for the effects of climate change on their assets and operations, and disclose climate-related risks to their shareholders. The Sabin Center explores how legal tools can be used to mobilize funds and ensure that companies prepare for climate risks.

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

*The Sabin Center holds and participates in events on a wide range of topics related to climate change. These include conferences, debates, seminars, and panel discussions. Below are some highlights of our 2016 events:*

- *Disruptive Energy Futures*, November 2, 2016
- *Environmental Law: Time to Reboot*, October 20, 2016
- *Ensuring Urban Resilience, Come Hell or High Water*, September 22, 2016

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*The Sabin Center produces papers, surveys and other legal resources, and its members edit and co-author books with other climate law and energy experts from around the globe. In November 2016, the Sabin Center launched a new website at [columbiaclimatelaw.com](http://columbiaclimatelaw.com). The new site contains landing pages for each of our program areas, which include links to relevant projects, publications, and other resources. In addition, the Center publishes the [Climate Law Blog](#) and maintains a growing presence on social media, which now includes over 5,000 Twitter followers and 1,300 Facebook followers, as well as a [youtube](#) channel.*

## **Books**

- *Global Climate Change and U.S. Law*, 2nd ed. Michael Gerrard & Jody Freeman (Co-Editors) (ABA 2014)
- *Threatened Island Nations: Legal Implications of Rising Seas and a Changing Climate*, Michael Gerrard & Gregory E. Wannier (Co-Editors) (Cambridge University Press, 2013)
- *The Law of Adaptation to Climate Change : U.S. and International Aspects*, Michael Gerrard & Katrina Fischer Kuh (Co-Editors) (ABA 2012)

## **Online Resources**

### ➤ **Climate Change Litigation Database**

The Sabin Center maintains [U.S.](#) and [non-U.S.](#) climate litigation charts, organized by both claim type and name, which include links to decisions, briefs and relevant commentaries. We also circulate a monthly update on recent developments in climate-related litigation. To subscribe to the Center's monthly update, contact: [columbiaclimate@gmail.com](mailto:columbiaclimate@gmail.com).

### ➤ **Climate Deregulation Tracker**

The [Climate Deregulation Tracker](#) monitors efforts undertaken by the Trump administration to scale back or wholly eliminate federal climate mitigation and adaptation measures. The tracker also monitors congressional efforts to repeal statutory provisions, regulations, and guidance pertaining to climate change, and to otherwise undermine climate action. Finally, the tracker will monitor any countervailing efforts to advance climate change mitigation and adaptation in the face of these deregulatory actions.

### ➤ **State Attorneys General Environmental Action Database**

The Sabin Center has partnered with StateAG.org to develop a [database](#) of actions undertaken by state attorneys general as they seek to advance environmental law and policy objectives within their jurisdictions.

*Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ColumbiaClimateLaw](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaClimateLaw)) and Twitter (@ColumbiaClimate)*

*Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School, Jerome Greene Hall, 435 W. 116th Street, New York NY*