



SABIN CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LAW



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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

➤ 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, and mitigation and adaptation responses to it, pose serious risks to human rights for individuals and communities around the world. We engage with international organizations, advocates and scholars to promote protection of human rights in and through climate action.

➤ Environmental Assessment

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 the National Environmental Policy Act and its state and international analogs. 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. 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.

➤ Natural Resources

Climate change is affecting natural resources, with observed effects on habitats, species, and biological events. 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.

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

➤ **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 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.

➤ **International and Foreign Law**

Climate change is a global problem that demands a global response. The Sabin Center provides legal support for and participates in international efforts to address the causes and effects of climate change. We also track how foreign jurisdictions are addressing climate change through legal reforms and litigation.

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 2017 events:

- *Third David Sive Memorial Lecture: Gina McCarthy*, September 28, 2017
- *Using Green Infrastructure for Climate Change Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation*, April 13, 2017
- *New York Sea Level Rise Projections: Implications for Law, Land Use, Buildings and Infrastructure*, March 20, 2017

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. Our website, columbiaclimatelaw.com, contains landing pages for each of our program areas, and 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, 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 Center maintains [U.S.](#) and [non-U.S.](#) climate litigation charts. (The US database is maintained in collaboration with Arnold & Porter.) We also circulate a monthly update on recent developments in climate-related litigation.

➤ **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.

➤ **Climate Change Laws of the World Database**

The Sabin Center and the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment have collaborated to create an [online database](#) of the laws, regulations, policy statements, and other directives issued by national governments.

➤ **Silencing Science Tracker**

The [Silencing Science Tracker](#) is a joint initiative of the Sabin Center and the [Climate Science Legal Defense Fund](#). It tracks government attempts to restrict or prohibit scientific research, education or discussion, or the publication or use of scientific information, since the November 2016 election.

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