



Partners for Diversity and Leadership in Environmental Law

Howard University School of Law
American Bar Association
District of Columbia Bar Association

Partners for Diversity and Leadership in Environmental Law

“The environmental law partnership is a valuable asset to the Howard law school community. The partnership's course offering, activities, and fellowship opportunities stand not in isolation. This initiative has become an integral part of the program of Howard Law School to produce lawyers as social engineers prepared to provide leadership in the law for America and the global community.”

June 4, 2013



Interim Dean , Okianer Christian
Dark Howard University School of
Law

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Overview:

- Background
- Goals and Vision
- Accomplishments

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Background: ABA Environmental Justice Resolution (August 1993)

Resolved, That the American Bar Association:
(a) supports actions by... academic institutions to achieve [the goal of environmental justice];

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Background:

The ABA urges:

- (d) expansion of law school curricula and clinical programs to educate students to deal with these issues;**
- (e) state and local bar associations to adopt resolutions similar to the this ABA resolution.**

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Identified needs:

- Howard University law students deserve a strong environmental law program to compete and provide representation
- In 2004 only 3 of 8 Historically Black Colleges or University's with law schools offered a course in environmental law

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Background: Formed partnership in 2004 through the ABA Board of Governors to:

- **Develop excellence in Howard's environmental law program**
- **Create opportunities for Howard students to gain practical work experience and contribute to legal scholarship in the field of environmental law**
- **Address issues of sustainability and environmental justice**

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Vision: Clients served and critical environmental decisions informed by attorneys with diverse backgrounds

Goal: Foster the diversity and leadership of the next generation of environmental lawyers

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Accomplishments in 2004-013:

- Founded in 2004 through Board of ABA Governor's Resolution and District of Columbia Bar Association
- Pro bono adjunct professors: first year and continuing



Adjunct Prof. Quentin Pair (Dept. of Justice)



Adjunct Prof. Nicholas Targ (Holland & Knight)



Adjunct Prof. Ben Wilson (Beveridge & Diamond)

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Accomplishments in 2004-13:

- Outstanding Adjunct Professors



**Karl Fingerhood
(USDOJ)**



**David Friedland
(Beveridge &
Diamond)**



**Daria Neal
(USDOJ)**



**Steven Wolfson
(USEPA)**



**Leslie Fields
(Sierra Club)**

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Accomplishments in 2004-13:

Full time Environmental Law Professor, Patrice Simms

- **Teaching:**
 - Introduction to Environmental Law
 - Clean Air and Climate Change
 - Environmental Justice
 - Energy Regulation, Law and Policy
 - Property Law
- **Other Activities:**
 - Coordinator, Env'tl Law Clinical Externship
 - Founder, Howard Env'tl Policy Round Table
 - Steering Committee Member, EPA-Howard University Memorandum of Understanding
 - Environmental career counseling



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Accomplishments in 2004-13:

- More than 500 students having taken one or more class in environmental law
- Full suite of environmental courses, including, among others:
 - Environmental Law
 - Environmental Justice
 - International Environmental Law
 - Clean Air/Clean Water
 - Private Action/Citizen Suits
 - ADR Clinic
 - Environmental Justice Law Clinic (through NRDC)

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Accomplishments in 2004-13:

- Establishment of Howard Energy and Environmental Law Society (“HEELS”) (voted best “student organization” 2013)
- 25+ 3rd year papers on environmental law topics



(Daphne Rubin-Vega (HUSL J.D., 2012), President. HEELS, Associate Beveridge & Diamond



Student Leadership and Faculty Representative

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Accomplishments in 2004-13 (cont'd):

- Howard's first Environmental Law Moot Court team won a "best oralist" prize
- Externships, Clerkships & Fellowships (25+ students)



Romola Lucas-Hamilton (HUSL J.D. 2006), Best Oralist Prize, Pace Environmental Moot Court



Leslie Carothers, Pres., ELI; Laura Kosloff, ABA, Erin McCoy (HUSL J.D. 2008); Nicholas Targ, ABA

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Accomplishments in 2004-13 (cont'd):

- Human Rights Moot Court Competition-- 1st Place English Speaking Team (2008, Geneva, Switzerland)
- WTO Int'l Moot Court Competition-- Best Brief



Ida Ngueng-Feze (HUSL J.D. 2005; Univ. Montreal, LLM Env'tl Law 2008) UN-FAO Fellowship 2006

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Recent Howard Law Grads Pursuing Careers in Environmental Law



Mariel Lim (Legislative Counsel, US House of Representatives)



Winston Braithwaite (General Counsel, Coastal Management US Virgin Islands)



Stacey Sublett (Associate Beveridge & Diamond)

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Recent Howard Law Grads Pursuing Careers in Environmental Law



Shawn O'Brien
(Associate, Hunton & Williams)

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Stephanie Maddin
(Associate
Legislative Counsel,
EarthJustices)



Bilal Harris (Assistant
Regional Counsel,
Region 4, USEPA)

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Accomplishments in 2004-13 (cont'd):

- C. Clyde Ferguson
Lecture, Gerald Torres,
“Environmental Justice:
From Social Movement
to Law.”



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Gerald Torres, Bryant Smith Chair in Law,
University of Texas, Austin; Immediate past
Chair American Association of Law Schools

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Accomplishments in 2004-13 (cont'd):

- Earth Day Events

Anacostia River Clean-up
with Earth Conservation
Corps



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Academic Years 2004-13:

- **Dean's Lecture: John C. Cruden, "Environmental Justice: Civil Rights for the 21st Century"**

"The Howard story is a great one because it involves people and institutions working together for our common good. It shows the commitment of one of our great law schools... It demonstrates the collaboration of our great bar with other institutions to achieve important environmental and social objectives."

DC Bar President's Message, *Washington Lawyer*, January 2006

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John C. Cruden, Exec. Director Environmental Law Institute

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Academic Years 2004-13:

- **National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program at Howard Law School**
- Annual 250 person conference bringing together communities, government, industry, and academia for three days of learning
- Sponsored by DOE, EPA, DOI, HUD, USDA, URS, Waste Management, Beveridge & Diamond, PG&E, Holland & Knight and others



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Planning for the Future:

- **Expand Environmental Justice Fellowship and Internship Opportunities**
- **Expand Clinic for Environmental Justice & Sustainability**
- **Develop Environmental Law Certificate Program**
- **Create Environment Law Scholarship**
- **Sponsor Regular Environmental Law Symposia and other Events**

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“In fulfilling Howard University’s congressional mandate to educate its students to develop their highest capabilities and skills; engage as an institution in the active pursuit of solutions to domestic and international legal, social, economic problems that are of particular concern to minority groups, and imbue its students with dedication to excellence and commitment to the solutions to those problems, the Environmental Law Partnership is ‘Exhibit A.’”

Kurt Schmoke, Howard Univ. VP and General Counsel