

# **Climate Judiciary Project**

## ***Curriculum Development Plan***

June 16, 2020

### **Background**

The Climate Judiciary Project of the Environmental Law Institute provides case relevant science to judges likely to hear cases related to climate change. Building on the lessons of a series of pilot programs conducted in 2019-20, CJP plans to develop the capacity to present longer, more in-depth seminars that may also be adapted to focus on particular topics of relevance to particular groups of judges or jurisdictions. CJP also intends to serve as a resource for materials that can be used in advancing judge's knowledge of climate science and their ability to deal with scientific information that may come before them.

### **Objective of Curriculum Development**

The project is designing a curriculum in order to incorporate the most effective approaches for educating judges on climate science and impacts and to ensure that the relevant topics are appropriately reflected, based on the most current scientific knowledge and trends in litigation. This curriculum will include the teaching tools necessary to provide educational sessions to judges. It will be designed as a series of stand-alone modules that can be presented as part of a whole multi-day program, or individually. It will be designed to be presented by people with strong working knowledge of the particular topic, to facilitate the convening of sessions. But the modules will also include materials that would be useful to those interested in learning about a topic independently.

### **Module Components**

Each module will be based on a lesson that can be presented in approximately one – two hours, including some time for discussion, but that can be expanded as appropriate for various audiences (i.e. judges of particular jurisdictions or interests) or event formats or that can be used for independent study. Each module will include:

1. A detailed written explanation of the topic (“teachers’ guide”)
2. Learning objectives
3. Model PowerPoint slides
4. Proposed discussion questions
5. Self-test questions
6. Recommended reading/key sources to learn more about the topic
7. Proposed active learning activities relevant for the topic

## **Participants**

### *Secretariat*

ELI CJP staff Paul Hanle and Sandra Thiam, in collaboration with Judge Merideth Wright, will design the curriculum and coordinate the drafting of the modules in consultation with the curriculum committee and drafters to be identified and recruited as the project advances.

### *Module Drafters*

While the secretariat will do the writing for some of the modules, subject-matter experts will be recruited on a contract or volunteer basis to draft most of the materials.

### *Curriculum Committee*

A group of 13 distinguished scientists, legal scholars, and judges, will advise on the design of the curriculum. The role of the curriculum committee will be to review areas to be covered in the curriculum and organization of the material. The committee will review and validate the outline and provide input about candidates for drafting specific modules. Individual members of the committee will be consulted as needed on areas of their interest. The committee will operate primarily bilaterally rather than through regular convening and will meet as a whole infrequently (two or three times) over the entire period of curriculum development. An initial launch meeting is foreseen, and it may be appropriate to hold a final meeting when the curriculum is complete, for final validation and discussion of next steps. In view of current circumstances, all meetings are expected to be conducted by video conference.

## **Curriculum Committee Members**

1. Professor Ann Carlson, Shirley Shapiro Professor of Environmental Law, UCLA School of Law
2. Professor Kristie Ebi, Professor of Global Health and Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Department of Global Health, University of Washington
3. Professor Chris Field, Melvin and Joan Lane Professor for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies, Stanford University
4. Judge Jeremy Fogel, Executive Director, Berkeley Judicial Institute, Berkeley Law School
5. Professor Inez Fung, Departments of Earth & Planetary Science and Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley
6. Professor Michael Gerrard, Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia Law School
7. Professor Geoffrey Heal, Donald C. Waite III Professor of Social Enterprise, Columbia Business School
8. Professor Barry Hill, The Environmental Law Institute
9. Professor Michael J. Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Department of Geosciences, and the Princeton Environmental Institute, Princeton University
10. Professor Stephen Pacala, Frederick D. Petrie Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University
11. Justice Ronald Robie, Associate Justice, Third District of the California Courts of Appeal
12. Judge Michael Simon, U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon
13. Judge David Tatel, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit