

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 5:07 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Professor Reed,
Adam Sobel at Columbia suggested I write you regarding the possibility of your speaking to a distinguished group of judges in September. I am the founder of a program based at the Environmental Law Institute to educate US judges on science and law related to climate change. As I was ending my tenure as President of Climate Central in 2018, the need for such a project became evident, and I started it with the help of several leading scientists, legal scholars, and judges who agreed the time was right. Michael Oppenheimer, Steve Pacala, Chris Field, Michael Gerrard and numerous others continue to be close advisors.

Among the many threads of the project is a year-long course for select state judges in collaboration with the National Judicial College. We engaged NJC to reach out to the Chief Justices of every state and ask each to nominate one judge to be a “Judicial Leader in Climate Science.” 21 states and Puerto Rico decided to participate, and we were very pleased that all but one of our target states (where cases were being brought) opted in. The program develops both their leadership skills and their knowledge of climate science, and it then explicitly charges them to become ambassadors of climate science to their colleagues in the states. This September, the second of two multi-day courses for these JLCS judges will be held in Woods Hole at WHOI and Woodwell Center, where we are delivering talks, conversations, and interactive activities focusing mostly on climate science. Among our guest speakers are Dan Schrag, Kristi Ebi, Michael Greenstone, and Doug Kysar.

We believe it is vital that the judges have a working knowledge of climate change attribution that may come to bear in cases they and their colleagues will hear, and so we have scheduled a portion of the program for a leading scientist to speak to the topic and lead a discussion of attribution with the judges. The scientist need not be pursuing research in this area but should have a working knowledge of it. We are hoping you might consider coming to the Woodwell Climate Research Center, which is hosting us on September 13, to give this talk.

I want to ask if my colleague Sandra Thiam and I might have a few minutes of your time to discuss this possibility with you. Could we talk by Zoom sometime at your convenience later this week?

With thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,
Paul

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