

June 13, 2018

INSURING CALIFORNIA IN A CHANGING CLIMATE **Adapting the Industry to New Risks, Needs and Opportunities**

Speaker Biographies

Dave Jones

California Insurance Commissioner



As California's Insurance Commissioner, Dave Jones leads the California Department of Insurance, a law enforcement and consumer protection agency. He regulates California's insurance market – the largest insurance market in the United States, where insurers collect \$310 billion a year in premiums. Jones has saved consumers over \$3 billion by rejecting excessive property and casualty insurance rates and he has recovered more than \$84 million a year for consumers in response to consumer complaints and through investigations of insurers' market conduct. Under his leadership the Department of Insurance handles 170,000 consumer calls for assistance a year and has investigated and arrested over 5,500 individuals for fraud and worked with prosecutors to secure their conviction. Jones licenses and regulates 1,100 insurance companies and 400,000 agents and brokers. Jones has been a leader in the implementation of healthcare reform, including market reforms to protect consumers and expand access to health insurance and healthcare. Jones is leading a national investigation of life insurers' failure to pay life insurance benefits which has resulted in life insurers paying out over \$7 billion in benefits.

Dave Jones is an international and national leader on climate change and climate risk. Since his statewide election in 2010, Jones has led the administration of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Climate Risk Disclosure Survey which asks over 1,000 insurance companies what they are doing to address climate change and climate risk in their business operations, underwriting and reserving, enabling regulators, insurance companies and interested members of the public the ability to identify trends, vulnerabilities and best practices with regard to the impact of climate change on the insurance industry. In 2016, concerned about the growing risk that fossil fuel investments could become "stranded assets," on the books of insurers, Jones launched the Climate Risk Carbon Initiative that asks insurance companies to divest from investment in thermal coal and requires disclosure of all fossil fuel investments. Jones is Vice Chair of the NAIC Climate Change and Global Warming Working Group. Commissioner Jones is the first insurance regulator in the United States to join the UNEP-PSI, and actively support the principles for sustainable insurance. Jones is also the Founding Chair of the international Sustainable Insurance Forum – a working group of insurance supervisors from countries around the globe that strengthens insurance supervisors' understanding of and responses to insurance sustainability challenges, with an emphasis on the impacts of climate change and climate risk. In 2018 Jones also launched the first-in-the-nation climate risk scenario testing of insurers' investment portfolios. As a leader on climate risk and insurance regulation, Jones was invited to testify before the G-20 Financial Stability Board as it was forming the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). Jones has been a major supporter of the Recommendations of the TCFD and the first insurance regulator in the United States to begin implementing its recommendations.

Ken Alex

Governor's Office of Planning and Research



Ken Alex is the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and serves as Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Jerry Brown and the Chair of the Strategic Growth Council. As the longest tenured OPR Director, Ken has led a broad effort to modernize land use planning through greater transparency; easier access and local application through mapping tools, templates, and streamlined permits; reduced barriers to in-fill development; promotion of transit oriented development; protection of agricultural land and open space; recognition of water constraints; and updated general plan and CEQA guidelines. Ken is also the architect of the Under2 Coalition, an organization of over 200 sub-national jurisdictions representing 40% of world GDP, leading world action on climate change. Before joining the Governor's Office, Ken was the Senior Assistant Attorney General heading the environment section of the California Attorney General's Office, and the co-head of the Office's global warming unit. From 2000 to 2006, Ken led the California Attorney General's energy task force, investigating price and supply issues related to California's energy crisis. California Lawyer named Ken an "Attorney of the Year" in 2004 for his work in energy law, and he received the ABA award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy in 2007 for global warming work.

Louise Bedsworth

Governor's Office of Planning and Research



Louise Bedsworth is the Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in the Office of Governor Jerry Brown. Prior to being appointed Deputy Director in 2013, she was a Senior Researcher at OPR. At OPR she leads work on climate change adaptation and resilience, land use and climate change, and other collaborative efforts. Dr. Bedsworth is also a visiting researcher at the University of California at Davis, where she leads an interdisciplinary, EPA-funded project on preparing for extreme event impacts on air and water quality in California. Before joining OPR in 2011, Dr. Bedsworth was a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where her work focused on climate change adaptation, local government action on climate change, and transportation. She has also held positions at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Redefining Progress, and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis. She has a BS in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MS in Environmental Engineering and PhD in Energy and Resources, both from the University of California at Berkeley.

Stephen Bushnell

Stephen Bushnell + Associates



Stephen Bushnell is a highly experienced insurance and risk management professional with more than 40 years of underwriting, marketing, product development, management and leadership experience with various property & casualty insurers – most recently as Senior Director for Commercial Insurance at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company (part of the Allianz Group). Steve is widely recognized as a risk-focused expert on green buildings, sustainable manufacturing and operations, and the broader business, economic and risk management implications of climate, energy and other sustainability challenges. In his 10 years with Fireman's Fund, Steve led the development of the industry's first dedicated insurance policies and risk services for green buildings (introduced in 2006), followed by similar solutions for manufacturing and other industry segments. Steve worked closely with Allianz to support the introduction of related offerings in its other key global markets. He has served in advisory or board capacities for organizations like California Sustainability Alliance, the Green California Summit, UL Environment and The U.S. Green Building Council – where he was the first representative of the insurance industry elected to USGBC's National Board of Directors from 2012-2014. Steve has also contributed extensively to sustainability-related industry research and standard development, and has been cited as an expert in both trade journals and local and national media. He has delivered more than 100 presentations to audiences ranging from insurance regulators and other policymakers to environmental NGOs, and has been invited to speak at various industry conferences like GreenBuild and other forums hosted for real estate professionals by organizations like the Urban Land Institute and BOMA. Steve holds dual professional designations from the American Institute

For Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters as an Associate in Risk Management and a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter, completed a Master of Business Administration in Sustainability from the San Francisco Institute of Architecture, and graduated from Northern Illinois University.

Jordan Diamond

Center for Law, Energy & the Environment



Jordan Diamond is the Executive Director of the Center for Law, Energy, & the Environment (CLEE) at UC Berkeley School of Law. The Center channels the expertise and creativity of the Berkeley Law community into pragmatic policy solutions to environmental and energy challenges in California and across the nation. Jordan's work focuses on ensuring environmental laws and policies are based on the best information available, developed through inclusive and transparent processes, and implemented through adaptive and accountable systems. Prior to joining CLEE, Jordan was the Co-Director of the Ocean Program at the Environmental Law Institute, where she concentrated on strengthening ocean and coastal governance at local and regional levels, including improving and integrating

Gulf of Mexico coastal conservation and restoration, supporting the role of Alaska Natives and other indigenous peoples in Arctic marine governance, and analyzing offshore energy management and enforcement systems. Jordan holds a JD and certificate in environmental law from Berkeley Law, where she was the managing editor of *Ecology Law Quarterly*, and a BA in earth and environmental sciences and a certificate in environmental studies from Wesleyan University, where she received the Sease Prize for outstanding work in environmental science. In 2013, Jordan received the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Distinguished Environmental Advocates: The Next Generation award.

Lloyd Dixon

RAND Corporation



Lloyd Dixon is a Senior Economist at the RAND Corporation and Director of RAND's Center for Catastrophic Risk Management and Compensation. He has expertise on insurance, compensation, and liability issues. Dr. Dixon has examined the performance and regulation of various insurance and financial markets. He has examined the cost and affordability of flood insurance in New York City, and has written on residential and commercial wind insurance markets along the Gulf Coast. He has also explored issues and options for government intervention in the market for terrorism insurance and examined the impact of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act on the workers' compensation market. He recently completed a study on the potential impacts of changing wildfire risk on the

homeowners insurance market for California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. Dr. Dixon has examined compensation and liability policies in a number of different settings. Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, he described and assessed the complex web of insurance, charity, government, and tort payments that provided assistance to individuals and businesses harmed in the attacks. He is currently working with FEMA, HUD, and the Puerto Rican government to craft a recovery plan for the housing sector in the aftermath of the 2017 hurricanes. Dr. Dixon holds a BS in engineering and a BA in political science from Stanford University, and a PhD in economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

Ethan Elkind

Center for Law, Energy & the Environment



Ethan Elkind is the Director of the Climate Program at the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) and leads the Climate Change and Business Research Initiative on behalf of the UC Berkeley and UCLA Schools of Law. He taught at the UCLA law school's Frank Wells Environmental Law Clinic and served as an environmental law research fellow. He has a background in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), climate change law, environmental justice, and other environmental law topics. In 2005, he co-founded The Nakwatsvewat Institute, Inc., a Native American nonprofit organization that provides alternative dispute resolution services and support for tribal governance, justice and educational institutions. His book on the history of the modern Los Angeles Metro Rail system

was published by University of California Press in January 2014. Ethan is also a regular host of the weekly call-in radio show "City Visions" on the San Francisco NPR affiliate KALW 91.7 FM, airing Monday nights at 7pm.

Aaron Ezroj **California Department of Insurance**



Aaron Ezroj serves as the Director of the Office of Climate Risk Initiatives at the California Department of Insurance (CDI). In this capacity, he has represented CDI at United Nations conferences and helped facilitate a first-in-the-nation stress test to determine climate-related risk to insurance industry investments. He has also written several law review articles on market-based environmental mechanisms which he developed through Fulbright and National Science Foundation research. Prior to his climate risk work, Aaron was a public interest attorney at some of California's leading law firms. He also clerked at the California Air Resources Board where he advised on the drafting of California's cap-and-trade regulation.

Alice Hill **Hoover Institution**



Alice C. Hill is a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, focusing on building resilience to destabilizing catastrophic events, including the impacts of climate change. She served as Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and Senior Director for Resilience for the National Security Council, and led the development of national policy regarding national security and climate change, incorporation of climate resilience considerations into international development, Federal efforts in the Arctic, building national capabilities for long-term drought resilience, and establishment of national risk management standards for three of the most damaging natural hazards. Hill previously served as Senior Counselor to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and as an ex officio member of the Federal Advisory Committee for the Third National Climate Assessment. Prior to her work in Washington, Hill served as Supervising Judge on the Superior and Municipal Courts in Los Angeles and as Chief of the white-collar crime prosecution unit in the Los Angeles United States Attorney's Office.

Cara Horowitz **UCLA School of Law**



Cara Horowitz is the Co-Executive Director of the Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at UCLA School of Law. The Emmett Institute was founded as the first law school center in the nation focused on climate law and policy. Cara teaches at the law school and directs the work of the Emmett Center to advance innovative research, public policy debate, and legislative reform to address climate change and its effects. Cara's areas of focus include California and federal climate policy and local sustainability. She has testified to the California legislature on climate policy and has been quoted in the *Washington Post*, the *Daily Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other media. She serves on the governing boards of local and national environmental organizations, including the Climate Law Institute, Climate Resolve, and the Green LA Coalition. Prior to joining UCLA, Cara worked in the non-profit sector as a staff attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council, where she litigated high-profile cases and advocated domestically and internationally to preserve and protect oceans and wildlife. She has also worked at Caldwell, Leslie and Proctor, a litigation boutique, and served as law clerk to the Honorable Dorothy W. Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Horowitz is a 2001 graduate of the UCLA School of Law, where she was an articles editor of the *UCLA Law Review* and finished first in her class.

Tricia Jamison

2° Investing Initiative



Tricia Jamison is an Analyst with the 2° Investing initiative (2dii). Over the past two years she has worked on 2dii's scenario analysis tool that uses asset-level data to assess the alignment of financial portfolios with climate policy scenarios. Most recently she led the scenario analysis collaboration with the California Department of Insurance, and she is also a co-author of 2dii's report "Limited Visibility: The Current State of Corporate Disclosure on Long Term Risks". Originally a software developer in the consulting industry, she holds a BS in Economics from the Wharton School and an MA and MPA from Columbia University.

Henrik Jeppesen

Carbon Tracker Initiative



Henrik Jeppesen, CFA joined Carbon Tracker in June 2017 as Head of North American Investor Outreach to develop the organization's capabilities in North America, building awareness and understanding of carbon and stranded asset risk amongst institutional investors and broadening the distribution and usage of Carbon Tracker's proprietary research. He brings 20 years' experience from investment management, sell-side equity research and institutional sales in Copenhagen, London and New York covering the energy and industrial sectors at Nykredit Asset Management and SEB, where he helped pioneer the first green bond issuances. He received an MSc in Finance and Accounting from Copenhagen Business School, where he also served as an external lecturer and holds the CFA, CAIA and CIPM designations as well as SASB's FSA Credential.

Richard Jones

The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company



Richard Jones is Senior Vice President of Research & Engineering at The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, responsible for the development and application of new insurance products and services for renewables and other areas of the energy marketplace. His work involves developing risk-based methods for insuring minimum levels of system performance and applying this type of insurance as a credit enhancement tool in financing. Rick is a frequent speaker on risk management as a tool to improve reliability and safety. He has over 75 publications and meeting contributions, has authored a book on Reliability-Centered Maintenance entitled: "Risk-Based Maintenance – A Reliability-Centered Approach" and a book published by Wiley in 2013 on risk management called "20% Chance of Rain – Exploring the Concept of Risk," and has over 20 patents. He received a BS in Aerospace Engineering and PhD in Nuclear Science and Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Ted Lamm

Center for Law, Energy & the Environment



Ted Lamm is Research Fellow in the Climate Program at the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE). Ted's research focuses on California policies regarding climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, and the relationships between other areas of policy and the achievement of California's climate change-related goals. His recent work has centered on sustainability in California's freight system, utility-scale solar power, and energy efficiency in the multifamily housing sector. Prior to joining CLEE, Ted practiced both environmental law and corporate law in New York City. At New York University School of Law, where Ted received his JD, he was the symposium editor of the Environmental Law Journal and participated in the NYU/NRDC Environmental Law Clinic. Ted received his AB in English and Economics from Brown University.

Joel Laucher **California Department of Insurance**



Joel Laucher is the Chief Deputy Commissioner for the California Department of Insurance. Joel joined the Department as a market conduct examiner in 1985 and has since held positions managing the Market Conduct, Consumer Services, and Rate Regulation operations. Before joining the Department he worked as a commercial lines insurance underwriter. Joel is a graduate of UC Santa Cruz.

Evan Mills **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**



Dr. Mills is a Senior Scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, one of the world's leading research centers on energy and environment. His work includes the effects of global warming and climate change on natural and economic systems, and how to reduce emissions while adapting to unavoidable impacts, particularly with respect to implications for the insurance and risk-management industries. He has published over 300 technical articles and reports – 50 of which focus on insurance issues – and has contributed to ten books. Dr. Mills co-authored the insurance chapter in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Assessment Report, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program and World Meteorological

Organization, and contributed to the Fourth Assessment as well. He also contributed on the topic of insurance to the third U.S. National Climate Assessment. Dr. Mills has worked closely with individual insurers and regulators, and specializes in tracking the proactive initiatives on the part of insurers to identify and manage climate risk. He served as co-editor of the *Climate Change Futures* study exploring the health insurance implications of climate change, sponsored by Swiss Re through Harvard Medical School. Dr. Mills writes and speaks often on these topics and consults regularly with the insurance industry, trade associations, investor groups, and regulators. His work has been reported widely in the media, including *CNN*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Business Week*, *The Economist*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, and *the Wall Street Journal* as well as all major insurance industry journals. Dr. Mills is a member of the scientific body that collectively shared the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007, awarded to the IPCC and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change." His work on insurance, risk management, and climate change can be found at <http://insurance.lbl.gov>.

Robert Muir-Wood **RMS**



After a first degree in Natural Sciences and a PhD in Earth Sciences from the University of Cambridge, since 1992 Robert has worked on the development of methodologies for catastrophe loss modelling of earthquake, tropical cyclone, windstorm and flood perils in Europe, Japan, North America, Caribbean and Australia. He has been head of research at RMS since 2003 with a mission to explore enhanced methodologies for natural catastrophe modelling and develop models for new areas of risk. He was Lead Author on Insurance, Finance and Climate Change for the 2007

4th IPCC Assessment Report and Lead Author for the 2011 IPCC 'Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extremes'. He is Chair of the OECD High Level Advisory Board of the International Network on Financial Management of Large Catastrophes and was on the technical advisory board of the 2014 Risky Business US Climate Change economic costs study. He has published seven books, written scientific papers on earthquake, flood and windstorm perils and published more than 200 articles. His latest book 'The Cure for Catastrophe – How we can stop manufacturing natural disasters' was published in 2016. He is a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction at University College, London.

Lindene Patton

Earth & Water Law Group



Lindene Patton is a strategic advisor with deep experience in large loss litigation strategy and recovery; climate attribution; risk management; product development; corporate advocacy; compliance; real property data and analytics; specialty risks (professional liability, D&O, nuclear liability schema, cyber security liability, environment); and sustainability and resilience. Her specialized expertise combines business, science, technology and the law to assess and solve complex risk management and litigation issues. She has a deep understanding of the business of (re)insurance; the business of software as a service; the business of data, analytics and related hardware and cloud based business models; and many of their associated

customer businesses. Lindene currently serves as an independent member of the Board for the Center for Neighborhood Technology. Ms. Patton is an advisory board member for the University of California at Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. Ms. Patton has served multiple board appointments including to the National Academy of Science, World Economic Forum Global Advisory Councils, Executive Secretariat of the U.S. Department of Commerce National Climate Assessment, and the U.S. EPA Environmental Financial Advisory Board, and as Chair of the Board of Advisors for the National Institute of Building Sciences Council on Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. Ms. Patton previously served as Group Head of Hazard Products for Corelogic; Chief Climate Product Officer for Zurich Insurance Group; SVP / Counsel Zurich North America Specialties; VP / Counsel Willis; and Associate General Counsel Emcon. Lindene holds a BS in biochemistry from the University of California, Davis; a Master of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley; and a JD from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Jose Peralta

Aon



Jose Peralta is the Director for Aon's Public Sector Practice in the US and member of the Aon Weather & Climate Risk Innovation Group. He leads multi-disciplinary teams focused on addressing the financial challenges faced by supranational, Federal, state, local and quasi-governmental entities. Jose specializes in complex placements connecting clients with insurance, reinsurance, and capital market solutions that empower governments to more sustainably serve their constituents. Aon is a global leader in commercial risk, reinsurance, retirement, health and data & analytic services.

Claudia Polsky

UC Berkeley School of Law



Claudia Polsky joined Berkeley Law in July 2015 as the first Director of its Environmental Law Clinic and Assistant Clinical Professor of Law. Between graduating from Berkeley Law and returning to join its faculty, Polsky spent four years as a public-interest environmental litigator (Public Citizen Litigation Group & Earthjustice), and thirteen years as a Deputy Attorney General at the California Department of Justice. In these roles, she litigated cases from state and federal trial courts through the U.S. Supreme Court, testified before Congress, and participated in drafting and defending state environmental regulations. Polsky also served briefly as a Deputy Director of California's Department of Toxic Substances Control, managing a pollution prevention and green technology program that addressed

her area of current professional focus: reducing the toxicity of consumer products throughout the supply chain, to protect workers during product manufacture, consumers during product use, and communities impacted by toxic waste disposal. Polsky has additional interests at the intersection of environment and public health, including reducing use of agricultural pesticides, inducing "mode shift" from single-occupancy vehicle use to active transportation, and firmly establishing a human right to potable water. Her more ecologically focused work has encompassed negotiating conservation easements for The Nature Conservancy; litigating endangered species and dam removal cases for Earthjustice; and volunteering in Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks. She received her BA from Harvard University and her JD from UC Berkeley School of Law.

Bruce Riordan

UC Berkeley Climate Readiness Institute



Bruce Riordan is the Program Director for the Climate Readiness Institute at UC Berkeley. The CRI brings together academic experts from UC Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and other academic institutions with climate practitioners from Bay Area government agencies, non-profits and the private sector. Through these “co-production” research partnerships, we develop actionable science on how sea level rise, drought, heatwaves, and other climate issues will impact public health, infrastructure performance, and critical ecosystems in the Bay Area and California. Previously, Mr. Riordan served as the Climate Strategist for the Bay Area Joint Policy Committee (JPC). At the JPC, Mr. Riordan led the Bay Area Climate & Energy Resilience Project, funded

by the Kresge Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, and the JPC regional agencies. BACERP was a collaboration of 300+ Bay Area climate stakeholders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors that worked to accelerate Bay Area climate adaptation and resilience planning through workshops, needs assessments, webinars and other activities. Mr. Riordan is the Co-Founder and past Chair of the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA) that coordinates climate adaptation leaders from San Diego, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Sacramento, and the Sierra. He was recently appointed by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research to their statewide Advisory Committee on climate resilience under SB 246. Mr. Riordan has also consulted on climate change strategies for BART, Next 10, the Marin Community Foundation, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Quality Management District, and other Bay Area organizations.

Kathleen Schaefer

UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences



Ms. Schaefer is a nationally recognized expert in flood risk management. She is part of an innovative research team working at the UC Davis Watershed Science Center examining opportunities to convert flood risk into value that can be leveraged to buy down risk. Ms. Schaefer is a passionate advocate for replacing our nation’s antiquated flood control philosophy with a modern, science based, data driven, integrated, flood risk management philosophy that engages the whole community. Ms. Schaefer has over 30 years of experience in water resources management, working in both in the public and private sectors. Before leaving to pursue a PhD, Kathleen worked as a FEMA Regional Engineer managing over \$10M in new mapping

projects in California. Projects that included a new coastal study of the San Francisco Bay. Kathleen believes in the power of innovation and collaboration. She initiated a 2-D Modeling Blue Ribbon Technical Panel to examine issues related to the use of 2-D modeling in FEMA flood studies and Watershed University, a USACE Silver Jackets award winning collaboration between CA DWR, USACE, and ASFPM to provide education for community officials. She is currently a member of the DHS Flood Apex project review committee. Kathleen has a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska and a Master’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Virginia and is currently pursuing a PhD in Civil Engineering at UC Davis. In 2009, Kathleen received the Floodplain Management Association’s Goddard Award for Outstanding Contribution to FMA newsletter and in 2012 she received the Hogg-Owen Award for Meritorious Achievement.

Nik Steinberg

Four Twenty Seven



Nik Steinberg is the Director of Analytics at Four Twenty Seven, a market research and advisory firm specialized in evaluating the economic impacts of climate change. He leads the research team and guides the modeling efforts to assess the attributable impact of climate change on human health, supply chains, infrastructure, and the natural environment. His work focuses on ways to assess climate and development induced risk through advanced statistics, climate change models, and impact evaluation methods. Nik recently published reports on climate risk facing US municipalities and contributed to TCFD recommendations for reporting on physical climate risk metrics. Previously, he has served as an environmental risk specialist in South Asia, the Middle East and Central and South America for USAID, US Department of State, Pacific Gas & Electric, NASA, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Nik holds a Master's degree from American University in Water Resources Management.

Jessica Wentz

Columbia Law School



Jessica Wentz joined the Sabin Center in September 2014 as an Associate Director and Postdoctoral Fellow. She became a staff attorney in 2016. Her work at the Sabin Center spans a variety of topics related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable development, and environmental justice. Much of her research focuses on how existing U.S. laws – such as the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act – can be used to address the causes and impacts of climate change. She has also written on the nexus between climate change and human rights law. In addition to her scholarship, Jessica maintains online resources such as the Climate Deregulation Tracker. Jessica previously worked as a Visiting Associate Professor and Environmental Program Fellow at the George Washington University Law School. She is a 2012 graduate of Columbia Law School, where she was awarded the Alfred S. Forsyth Prize for “dedication to the advancement of environmental law.” She also has a BA in international development from the University of California, Los Angeles.