



ELAW

advocate

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Connecting Communities
Protecting the Planet

A New Generation of Environmental Defenders

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The Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide has worked for more than 25 years to build the corps of grassroots advocates winning victories for communities and the environment around the world. With partners in more than 80 countries, our corps is strong and growing.

A new generation of environmental defenders is joining our ranks, and we are thrilled by their energy, enthusiasm, and good work.

Our partner organizations are growing and integrating a new generation of grassroots defenders. The Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) was launched and thrived under the leadership of Diana McCaulay, who recently passed the torch to new CEO Suzanne Stanley (top right). Diana said: "I feel sure I am leaving an excellent team in place."

Terri-Ann Guyah (top left) is JET's new Legal Director. She says she was inspired to pursue law from a tender age when watching the news with her father and seeing citizens suffer at the hands of police and broken social systems.

"It drove me to speak out as a youth ambassador and pursue law with the hope that I could help be a voice for change," she says.

Terri-Ann says her work changing practices and attitudes towards the environment is daunting, but it's worth the reward when communities win victories for a clean and healthy environment.

JET Staff



A new generation of environmental defenders is joining our ranks, and we are thrilled by their energy, enthusiasm, and good work.



Cockpit Country, Jamaica.

Over the past year, JET celebrated impressive victories. Prime Minister Andrew Holness declared a large forested area of Jamaica, called Cockpit Country, off limits to mining and quarrying; the Goat Islands were declared a wildlife sanctuary; and a proposed 1000MW coal-fired power plant, which would have been Jamaica's first, was canceled.

We are pleased to share thoughts from a few members of the new generation of environmental defenders working with ELAW to build a greener future.



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The Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) helps communities speak out for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet. We are a global alliance of attorneys, scientists and other advocates collaborating across borders to promote grassroots efforts to build a sustainable, just future. The ELAW Advocate is a publication of the ELAW U.S. and does not represent the views of ELAW partners around the world.

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A New Generation



Terri-Ann Guyah
Kingston, Jamaica
Legal Director
Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)



Terri-Ann Guyah (in yellow) interviews a resident of Port Morant about pollution flowing to Holland Bay.

I recently visited Port Morant, Saint Thomas, where we filmed community members sharing their views on local air and water quality issues. They took us to Holland Bay and showed us a canal where the Golden Grove Sugar Factory discharges its effluent. We saw flowing, dark, murky water with a pungent smell being discharged into the Bay. It was disturbing to hear about annual fish kills during reaping season and how schools are engulfed with smoke and students sent home when cane fields are burned. Fires threaten local homes near cane fields, black soot damages linens, and residents suffer from respiratory illnesses. I was appalled.

I am determined to make these community voices heard and equip residents with the knowledge they need to advocate for their rights. This situation inspires me to continue to fight for Jamaicans' constitutional rights to a healthy environment.



Eduardo Mosqueda Sánchez
Guadalajara, Mexico
Lawyer
Instituto de Derecho Ambiental (IDEA)

"Since I was a child, I wanted to make the world a better place. Today, I am trying to fulfill that dream."

Eduardo Mosqueda Sánchez

Our biggest environmental challenge is clean water and polluters going unpunished. Human beings become detached from the environment and lose sight of their impact on others. My philosophy draws me to protect living beings and the systems that sustain us.

I have been inspired by some great human beings, including Martha Rodríguez. She is a local leader who is helping her community resist government plans to turn community lands into a mega-tourist medical complex. Martha has been threatened, harassed, and arbitrarily detained, but she and her daughter are undaunted and continue to seek justice for their people.

The ELAW network is like family. In 2015, I was illegally detained for 10 months by the government in Colima State for my work defending communities from transnational mining companies ArcelorMittal and Ternium. Thanks to ELAW and the extraordinary work of my fellow lawyers, I obtained my freedom.

of Environmental Defenders

"The fraternity with ELAW partners is priceless and always helps me when I feel hopeless."

Ximena Ramos Pedrueza Ceballo



Ximena Ramos Pedrueza Ceballo
Veracruz, Mexico
Senior Expert, Gulf of Mexico Office
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA)

I had great professors who helped me discover my passion – defending human rights through environmental litigation. This is how I contribute to a better world.

I help indigenous communities protect their rights to territory and a healthy environment, including clean water and access to food. I help them challenge projects that threaten their well-being, conduct research, and hold workshops. I am inspired when I work with indigenous communities. They are an example of how we can live in harmony with the environment.

I think climate change is the most urgent environmental issue. We are already seeing the consequences, and we must act before it's too late. Access to clean water is another urgent issue. Our system is wrong. It is calling for a certain type of development at the expense of communities and the environment. We must do something to change it.

"It helps to interact with a wide network of highly knowledgeable and passionate people. We've solved issues that would have otherwise been impossible."

Gift Joshua

I am inspired by the unique place of law in society. It can be used as a business tool, but it can also be used as a driver for social justice and positive change to protect humanity and the environment.

My work is engaging and eye opening. It involves interactions with local communities where we must assess challenges and try to strike a balance between human and environmental needs.

The most urgent environmental issue is gross human rights violations in the guise of environmental protection by the state. We protect the environment for the benefit of humanity, but humanity will be no more if human rights violations do not stop! ALAPA empowers indigenous people by helping them learn about and combat new threats to their environment.

Gift Joshua
Arusha, Tanzania

Natural Resources Rights Officer
Association for Law and Advocacy for Pastoralists (ALAPA)



"ELAW has provided valuable consultation on pesticides, logging, biodiversity in forests, hydropower plants, captured dolphins, waste management, climate change, and much more."

Kateryna Norenko



Kateryna Norenko
Kyiv, Ukraine
Environmental Scientist
Environment-People-Law (EPL)

Since high school, I have been drawn to science and law. Ukraine has many environmental problems that will only change by applying legal instruments. I support EPL lawyers through on-site research, development, and advocacy of legislative and policy proposals in forest management, biodiversity, and waste management, with a focus on problems with pesticides. Local communities use this scientific expertise to protect their rights to a healthy environment.

Hazardous chemicals, including pesticides, are a serious problem in Ukraine. Many pesticides that are legal in Ukraine are banned in the European Union. This leads to hundreds of poisonings every year, environmental pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

I am inspired by local communities and people who struggle because their environmental rights are violated. I want to do something right, to help my country develop.

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(A New Generation . . . CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

New Victories in 2018: Chile, Panama, India and the Czech Republic

Victory for Wild Rivers in Patagonia

For more than 15 years, Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente (FIMA) has provided legal support to local groups in Chile working to protect Patagonia from schemes to dam wild rivers. FIMA has called on ELAW to review Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for these short-sighted projects.

Ezio Costa Cordella, FIMA Executive Director, sent good news in January:

"I want to share our happiness . . . It has been a long struggle with multiple actors fighting on different fronts... the Supreme Court, the Valdivia Environmental Court, and the Santiago Environmental Court have rejected the environmental licenses of the three projects we were challenging: Mediterráneo-Río Puelo, Río Cuervo, and HidroAysen."

Congratulations to FIMA for years of good work protecting the wild rivers of Patagonia!



Baker River Delta, Chile. PHOTO: Germán Póo-Caamaño, Wikimedia Commons.

Challenging Coal in India

Polluting emissions from coal operations in India make breathing a hazard.

According to ELAW Staff Scientist Dr. Mark Chernaik, five air samples taken in December and January in Chennai, a coastal city of more than 7 million in Tamil Nadu, reached a level of "very unhealthy" and two of them were "hazardous" under the US Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality Index. Dr. Chernaik interpreted these findings for Shweta Narayan at Community Environmental Monitors.

Meanwhile, partners called on ELAW to critique draft standards put forward by India's Ministry of Environment,

Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) that would weaken standards for thermal discharges from coastal coal-fired power plants that use once-through cooling. The standards were originally drafted in 2015 and ELAW partners convinced the National Green Tribunal in January to stop the MoEFCC from granting exemptions that would have allowed new plants to avoid complying with strict emission limits in the original standards.

We are pleased to be working with partners to challenge coal in India and around the world.

Bay of Panama Protected

We are pleased to report that a fuel pipeline project proposed for construction under the nationally protected Bay of Panama has been shelved! The project included a fuel pipeline, storage tanks, and other infrastructure that threatened critical wetlands recognized in 2003 by the Ramsar Convention.

ELAW's law and science teams worked closely with partners at El Centro de Incidencia Ambiental (CIAM) to protect communities and local ecosystems from the ill-conceived project.

Panama's Supreme Court ruled that the project violated "rights to a healthy environment." CIAM attorney Luisa Arauz says this sets an important precedent in Panamanian law.

The Bay of Panama Ramsar site features intertidal mudflats divided by estuaries, mangrove forests, swamp forests, and freshwater pools. It is an important stopover for migrating shorebirds and home to giant anteaters, tapirs, crocodiles, and loggerhead turtles.

Congratulations, CIAM!



Loggerhead turtle.

Triple Win for Clean Air in Central Europe

A border region shared by the Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany is called the Black Triangle for its extreme air pollution from coal operations and other industries. ELAW partners at Frank Bold are working with communities here to demand clean air, and winning!

"Finally, the courts have recognized the need for effective action against air pollution and delivered three great judgements," says Kristina Sabova, a lawyer at Frank Bold.

In Prague, and the Usti and Ostrava regions, courts have ordered the Ministry of the Environment to prepare new Air Quality Management Plans that ensure that air quality meets European Union standards.

Frank Bold worked closely with local communities to win these extraordinary victories.

Kristina said ELAW Staff Scientist Mark Chernaik "helped us a lot with his patient responses to our never-ending questions about the air pollution and contribution of various sources."

Kristina was an ELAW Fellow in 2016. She and her colleagues at Frank Bold work closely with ELAW's law and science teams to protect communities in Central Europe from polluting coal plants and advance green energy policy.

ArcelorMittal steelworks, Ostrava, Czech Republic. PHOTO: Gunther Bartos



"Finally, the courts have recognized the need for effective action against air pollution and delivered three great judgements."

Kristina Sabova, Frank Bold Lawyer

A New Generation of Environmental Defenders (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)



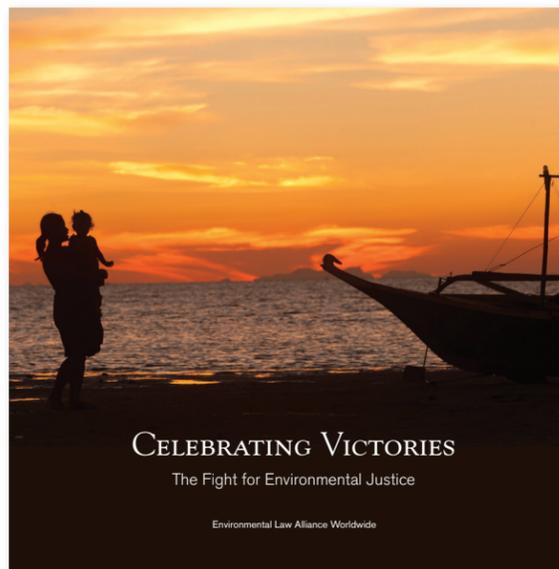
Aaron Pedrosa
Quezon City, Philippines
National Secretary-General
SANLAKAS

Becoming a lawyer was a childhood dream. My father was a public prosecutor, and I watched how he touched the lives of many people, especially clients who could not afford the services of a lawyer.

I am Secretary-General of SANLAKAS, a national coalition of peoples' organizations. We work with marginalized sectors, championing rights to engage with political processes and government institutions. I also co-chair the Energy Working Group at the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice. I am motivated by the perseverance, passion, and dedication of people working for social change. Climate change and the security of environmental defenders are our most urgent environmental issues. According to Global Witness, in 2017 the Philippines ranked second deadliest place in the world for environmental defenders.

On October 11, 2017, the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice submitted a complaint against the International Finance Corporation for fueling climate change by investing in a Philippine bank that finances the nation's coal industry. Aaron Pedrosa displays the complaint.

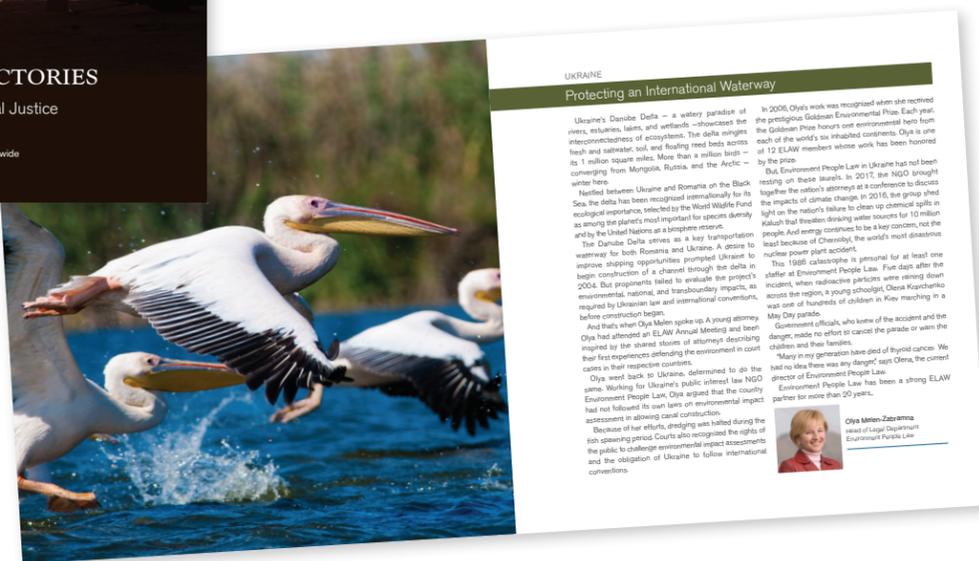
Celebrating Victories: The Fight for Environmental Justice



We recently launched our first ever photo essay book, *Celebrating Victories: The Fight for Environmental Justice*. It features 12 inspiring stories of communities around the world fighting for a healthy environment, and winning.

Many thanks to Susan Palmer for interviewing ELAW partners and sharing their stories through these powerful essays. And thanks to John Allcott and Beth Hunt for making this publication possible.

Celebrating Victories is now available online at: elaw.org/celebratingvictories. Order a complimentary hard copy by contacting Krista Shennum, ELAW Community Liaison, at krista@elaw.org.



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#ELAWCelebratingVictories

ELAW Staff – A New Generation



Colleen Keane
ELAW Office Manager

Working with communities and indigenous peoples in Alaska protecting their traditional lifestyles taught me that environmental justice is social justice. I believe that a sustainable Earth is a human right and solutions to ensure a healthy environment come from those most impacted.

Killian Doherty
ELAW Law Associate



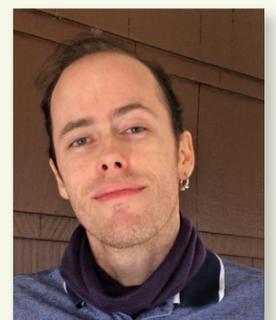
While studying public policy in Argentina, I learned about a non-profit organization (FARN) that was suing the Argentine government and 40 companies for violating the constitutional right to a healthy environment of residents of the highly contaminated Riachuelo River basin. I studied the case and attended hearings at the Argentine Supreme Court. I volunteered with FARN, doing research and translation. FARN's work using law to remedy environmental injustices inspired me to go to law school and, ultimately, to work with ELAW. Now, the many brilliant and courageous public interest lawyers around the world with whom we work inspire me every day.

Krista Shennum
ELAW Community Liaison



I am a nature lover and have always been interested in environmental issues. My generation will face the consequences of climate change, and it is our obligation to protect the most vulnerable. My work at ELAW contributes to global efforts securing environmental justice, and makes the world a more sustainable place.

David Pugh
ELAW Web Developer



Ever since I was a kid, I've loved plants and animals. That love has matured into a desire to help protect them. As ELAW Web Developer, I help others understand the importance of environmental conservation. I feel lucky and honored to work for an organization that helps protect all living beings.

ELAW Fellows Program



Cesar Gamboa
Lima, Peru
January 4 – March 17, 2018

Cesar is the Executive Director of Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), a leading NGO in Peru committed to strengthening governance, advancing sustainable development, and promoting indigenous rights in the Amazon. DAR does great work helping indigenous communities in the Amazon have a strong voice in protecting wild lands and their way of life.

Cesar has authored many studies addressing public environmental policies, the empowerment of civil society, and the advancement of social justice at national, regional, and local levels.

Cesar worked closely with ELAW's law and science teams to challenge plans for short-sighted infrastructure projects that threaten the Peruvian Amazon. He also participated in the 36th Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon.

In addition to his work with ELAW, Cesar was named a Director's Distinction Scholar at the University of Oregon's American English Institute (AEI), where he completed the 10-week Intensive English Program. Many thanks, AEI!



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“As scientists, we appreciate the importance of bringing science together with law to protect communities and the planet – ELAW does this effectively all over the world.”

Eileen and Mark Hemphill-Haley

For more than a decade, **Mark and Eileen Hemphill-Haley** have made generous, monthly contributions to ELAW.

Gabriel Wihtol is a Eugene native who recently became an ELAW monthly contributor. As a university student, Gabriel worked on many campus sustainability issues, and he continues advocating for the environment by supporting ELAW.

Dozens of generous supporters, like the Hemphill-Haleys and Gabriel, give a monthly gift to ELAW. Their steady support allows ELAW to provide the legal and scientific support our partners need to protect communities and the environment around the world.



To start your monthly gift to ELAW, please contact Krista Shennum at krista@elaw.org or 541-687-8454 x105, or donate online at www.elaw.org/monthlygiving.

“I love ELAW and am honored to be able to contribute to their work. It brings me hope to know there are people fighting the good fight for the planet.”

Gabriel Wihtol

THINK GLOBALLY. ACT GLOBALLY.

Charity Navigator and **GuideStar** give ELAW their highest rating for fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. To support our high impact work defending the environment and human rights in communities around the world visit www.elaw.org/give to make a secure, online gift.

