

Sonya Ziaja

University of Baltimore School of Law
1401 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201
sziaja@ubalt.edu

Academic Experience

2020 – present **Assistant Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law**, Baltimore, Maryland

Courses: Climate Adaptation, Law, and Equity; Environmental Law; Energy Law; Water Law; Property, Administrative Law

University Service: Faculty Advisor to the Environmental Law Society (Autumn 2020 – present); UB Team Faculty Coach for Pace Environmental Policy Hack Student Competition (Finalists, Autumn 2021; Winning Team 2024); Faculty Advisor for student notes on environmental, energy, and natural resource law topics (2021-present); Bar Exam Mentor (2023 & 2024).

Professional Service: Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Climate, Risk Management* (2021-present); Review Editor, *Frontiers in Climate, Law and Policy* (2021-present); Reviewer, *Land Use & Environment Law Review* (2021-present); Peer Reviewer and Scorer, *Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal* (2024); Steering Committee Member, Maryland Sea Grant Symposium on Coastal Climate Adaptation Strategies in the Chesapeake Bay Region (2024-25).

Civic/External Service: Environmental Advisory Council to the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland (member since 2023); Volunteer for Election Protection (ongoing); Testimony to the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on the Constitutional Right to a Healthy Environment (March 9, 2022).

2022-2023 **Research Affiliate, Environment and Democracy Workgroup**
Central European University Democracy Institute, Budapest, Hungary

2021, Summer **Michigan International and Comparative Law Research Scholar**
University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Education

2017 **University of Arizona, School of Geography and Development**
Ph.D., Geography

Dissertation: “A Series of Tubes: Misunderstandings in Hydropower Governance and

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Optimization Modelling,” examining the misapprehension of water and energy law in computer models used for hydropower planning in California · Committee: Carl Bauer (Chair), Helen Ingram, Edella Schlager, and Diana Liverman.

Carson Earth Fellow for Climate Science Communication (2013-2014)
Renewable Energy Network Fellow (2013-2014)
Water Sustainability Fellow (2013-2014)

2015 Paris Climate Accord (UNFCCC COP 21): Delegate for University of Arizona (NGO – Observer) · Adjunct delegate for the State of California.

2012 **University of Oxford, School of Geography and Development**
M.Sc., Water Science, Policy, & Management

Thesis: “Ruled by Capture: *Edwards Aquifer Authority v. Day* and Groundwater Governance in Texas” · Environmental Representative to Governing Body of Wolfson College · Chair, Environment and Ethics Committee, Wolfson College.

2009 **University of California College of the Law, San Francisco** (formerly UC Hastings)
J.D.

Journal: Managing Editor, *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly* · Chair, Environmental Law Society (2007-2008) · Co-Chair, Clara Foltz Feminist Association (2007-2008) · Volunteer, Hastings Homeless Legal Services · Public Interest Law Program Fellowship · Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation Grant.

2004 **University of Michigan**
B.A., Medieval & Early Modern Studies

Thesis: “Calculated Cuisine: Timurid Banqueting and the Image of Kingship” · Contributing Researcher, “What Do Survivors of Human Rights Violations Want? An Analysis of Testimony Transcripts from Public Hearings of South Africa’s Truth & Reconciliation Commission”, presented at the 2001 meeting of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.

Works in Progress

The Green Constitution: Do environmental rights matter? (empirical and qualitative exploration of how state constitutional environmental rights influence beliefs and actions of natural resource managers).

Wetlands Governance Gaps and State Constitutional Environmental Rights (invited essay for the Environmental Law Institute, to be published in *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*).

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Old Lessons for New Energy (comparing federal-local legal and political tensions across the “Big Dam” era of hydropower and the contemporary roll out of high voltage transmission lines to support renewable energy) (coauthor with Anne Eisenberg and Shannon Roesler).

Artificially Intelligent Water and Energy Governance (discussing recent applications of AI to solve climate related water and energy challenges, proposing formal and informal legal mechanisms to increase public participation and equity while improving data sources).

Scholarship and Academic Writing

Introduction to Environmental Geography and Law, __ TUL. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2024) (coauthor with Cinnamon Carlane, Keith Hirokawa, Melinda Morgan, Sophia Borgias, Jonathan London, Karrigan Börk, Anne Eisenberg, and Shannon Roesler).

Secret Lives of Environmental Rights, 41 PACE ENVTL. L. REV 345 (2024) (symposium).

Amoral Water Markets?, 111 GEO. L.J. 1135 (2023) (coauthor with Karrigan Börk).

Mapping Ecosystem Benefits Flows to Normalize Equity, 54.3 ARIZ. STATE L. REV. 819 (2023) (coauthor with Keith Hirokawa, Cinnamon Carlane, and Karrigan Börk).

- Selected through an annual peer review process for having published one of the top twenty leading law review articles in the field of environmental law.

How Algorithm Assisted Decision Making Is Influencing Environmental Law and Climate Adaptation, 48.3 ECOLOGY L. Q. 899-936 (2022).

- Selected through an annual peer review process for having published one of the three leading law review articles in the field of environmental law, with edited republication in ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY ANNUAL REVIEW (2023).

Climate Adaptation for Energy Utilities: Lessons Learned from California’s Pioneering Regulatory Actions, FRONTIERS CLIMATE L. & POL’Y (2022) (coauthor with M. Chhabra).

Climate and transportation policy sequencing in California and Quebec, 38 REV. POL’Y RSCH. 596-630 (2021) (coauthor).

Lessons on Race and Place-Based Participation from Environmental Justice and Geography, YALE J. REGUL., NOTICE & COMMENT BLOG (Aug. 16, 2020), <https://www.yalejreg.com/nc/lessons-on-race-and-place-based-participation-from-environmental-justice-and-geography-by-sonya-ziaja/>.

Role of Knowledge Networks and Boundary Organizations in Coproduction: A Short History of a Decision Support Tool and Model for Adapting Multiuse Reservoir and Water-Energy Governance to Climate Change in California, 11.4 WEATHER, CLIMATE, & SOC’Y 823-849 (2019).

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Rules and Values in Virtual Optimization of California Hydropower, 57 NAT. RES. J. 329 (2017),
<http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3979&context=nrij>.

Conjunctive Groundwater Management as a Response to Social Ecological Disturbances: A Comparison of Four Western U.S. States, TEX. WATER J. (2016) (coauthor with Zach Sugg and Edella Schlager), <https://journals.tdl.org/twj/index.php/twj/article/view/7019>.

Judging Science: The Rewards and Perils of Courts as Boundary Organizations, 21.2 HASTINGS ENVTL L. J. 217 (2015) (coauthor with Christopher Fullerton),
https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings_environmental_law_journal/vol21/iss2/8/.

Homewrecker 2.0: An Exploration of Liability for Heart Balm Torts Involving AI Humanoid Consorts, in Mutlu & Bilge eds, LECTURE NOTES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, Springer (2011),
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-3-642-25504-5_12.

Muddy Waters: Congressional Consent and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Resources Compact, Note, 36 HASTINGS CONST. L. Q. 717 (2009) (née Palay),
<https://www.hastingsconstitutionallawquarterly.org/vol31-45/>.

Selected Book and Treatise Chapters

Conjunctive Management of Surface Water and Groundwater Resources, in MARY K. SAHS, ED., ESSENTIALS OF TEXAS WATER RESOURCES, 6TH EDITION (State Bar of Texas, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section) (2020) (coauthor with Zach Sugg and Edella Schlager).

Water-energy nexus in semiarid regions and coastal cities of California and Baja California, in GIAN CARLO DELGADO RAMOS, ED., CLIMATE CHANGE-SENSITIVE CITIES: BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR URBAN RESILIENCE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND EQUITY (National Autonomous University of Mexico Research Program on Climate Change, 2017) (coauthor with G. Moñuz Melendez and Guido Franco).

Selected Government Reports

Statewide Summary Report, California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment (State of California, 2018) (coauthor), <http://www.climateassessment.ca.gov/state/docs/20180827-StatewideSummary.pdf>.

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency, in 2016 INTEGRATED ENERGY POLICY REPORT UPDATE (California Energy Commission, 2017) (coauthor with Guido Franco),
http://www.energy.ca.gov/2016_energypolicy/.

CULTURAL RESOURCES CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY (National Park Service, 2016) (coauthor),
https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/upload/NPS-2016_Cultural-Resoures-Climate-Change-Strategy.pdf.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA (California Energy Commission, 2015) (coauthor),
http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/climate_action_team/reports/CAT_research_plan_2015_briefin

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Awards and Honors

2024, Haub Environmental Law Distinguished Junior Environmental Scholar, Pace Law School.

2024, Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review: *Mapping Ecosystem Benefits Flows to Normalize Equity*, 54.3 ARIZ. STATE L. REV. 819 (2023), selected as among the top twenty policy-relevant environmental law articles of the previous year.

2023, Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review: *How Algorithm Assisted Decision Making Is Influencing Environmental Law and Climate Adaptation*, 48.3 ECOLOGY L. Q. 899-936 (2022), selected for inclusion as one of the top three policy-relevant environmental law articles of the previous year.

Selected Presentations, Lectures, and Conferences

Sackett v. EPA: One Year Out – Anniversary Conference, the Environmental Law Institute and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, OH

Invited Presentation: “Wetlands Governance Gaps and State Constitutional Environmental Rights” (June 12, 2024).

Sabin Colloquium on Innovative Environmental Law Scholarship, Columbia University Law School, New York, NY (Zoom)

Juried Selection, Presentation, “The Green Constitution: Do Environmental Rights Matter?” (May 23-24, 2024).

Columbia Journal of Environmental Law Symposium, New York, NY

Invited Commentary on Nick Bryner and Victor Flatt’s article, “Rotting Under the Bridge—How False Data Is Polluting Administrative Rulemaking” (April 4, 2023).

Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review, Washington, D.C.

Invited Presentation, “How Algorithm-Assisted Decision Making Is Influencing Environmental Law and Climate Adaptation” (March 31, 2023).

Pace Environmental Law Review Symposium, Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law (Zoom)

Selected Presentation, “Secret Lives of Environmental Rights” (October 28, 2022).

Junior Faculty Workshop, The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law (Zoom)

Invited Presentation, “The Green Constitution – Do Environmental Rights Matter?” (July 19, 2022).

Natural Resources Law Teachers Institute, Asilomar, CA

Juried Selection, Presentation, “Constitutional Environmentalism” (June 1, 2022).

Seventh Annual SRP Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

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Panelist, “Exposing Environmental Law’s Hidden Value Judgments” with Cinnamon Carlane, Keith Hirokawa, and Karrigan Börk (May 12-13, 2022).

Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law, White Plains, NY (Zoom)
Guest Lecturer, Science for Environmental Lawyers (Prof. J. Alex Erwin) (October 19, 2021).

First Annual Loyola Chicago Environmental Law Scholars Workshop at Starved Rock, Loyola University Chicago, Starved Rock State Park, Illinois
Invited Participant, “The Green Constitution – Do Environmental Rights Matter?” (October 13-16, 2021).

Probing Democracy – Inaugural Conference of the Central European University Democracy Institute, Budapest, Hungary (Zoom)
Invited Panelist, “How can knowledge production contribute to (re-)democratization” (October 7, 2021).

Sabin Colloquium on Innovative Environmental Law Scholarship, Columbia University Law School, New York, NY (Zoom)
Juried Selection, Presentation, “How Algorithm Assisted Decision Making Is Influencing Environmental Law and Climate Adaptation” (May 21, 2021).

University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ (Zoom)
Invited Lecturer, Environmental Law and Research Seminar (Prof. Justin Pidot, Kirsten Engle, and Priya Sundarashan) (April 23, 2021).

University of Michigan Law School Junior Scholar Conference, Ann Arbor, MI (Zoom)
Juried Selection, Presentation, “How Algorithm Assisted Decision Making Is Influencing Environmental Law and Climate Adaptation” (April 17, 2021).

California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA
Guest Lecturer, Natural Disaster Seminar (Prof. Kenneth Klein) (February 21, 2019).

Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy, San Jose, CA
Invited Participant, “Sustainable Groundwater Management: The Path Forward” (October 7-10, 2018).

Local Government Coalition, Civic Spark Orientation, Sacramento, CA
Invited Speaker, “Adaptation/Resilience and Equity: Perspectives and Tools for Equitable Climate Adaptation” (September 13, 2017).

Association of American Geographers, Legal Geographies, San Francisco, CA
Presenter, “Adaptation Lessons from the History of Hydroelectricity Governance in California” (April 1, 2016).

The Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP), Asilomar, CA
Invited Speaker, “Science Informed Policy in California’s Energy System” (July 16, 2015).

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California Climate Science Symposium, Sacramento, CA
Moderator, Water Resources in California: Drought, Extreme Events, and Management Options
(August 24, 2015).

University of Arizona, School of Geography & Development, Tucson, AZ
Guest Lecturer, Science and Decision-making (Prof. Connie Woodhouse) (2014).

University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ
Guest Lecturer, Economics, Law, Environment and Governance (Profs. Carol Rose and Kirsten Engle) (March 1, 2013).

Bar Admission

March 2010 California, 270643

Other Professional Experience

2017-2020 California Public Utilities Commission, Public Advocates Office, San Francisco, CA
Climate and Energy Research and Analysis (Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst V)

Provided expert testimony in ALJ proceedings on the use of credits in carbon markets by publicly traded utilities · Developed research on climate change adaptation, energy storage, and regulation · Lobbied Commissioners on energy and climate policy · Advocated and negotiated for ratepayer sensitive adaptation guidance for investor-owned energy utilities.

2014-2017 California Energy Commission, Research and Development Division, Sacramento, CA
Research Lead for the Climate-Water-Energy Nexus (Electrical Gener. Sys. Specialist)

Developed and managed energy and climate change as well as energy-water research portfolio responsive to California's regulatory and policy objectives · Represented the Energy Commission in government and academic energy partnerships · Supervised graduate and undergraduate interns in research in energy policy, including partnerships through UC Davis and the Mandela Fellowship, Young African Leadership Initiative.

2013-2014 University of Arizona, Institute of the Environment, Tucson, AZ
Renewable Energy Network Fellow

Conducted research on the decommissioning of a major source of energy for Arizona's

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water delivery system and its implications for public health and job security in the Navajo Nation.

2013 University of Arizona, Institute of the Environment, Tucson, AZ
Graduate Research Assistant

Collaborated with National Parks Service staff to develop policy guidance for cultural resources and climate adaptation.

2012 University of Arizona, School of Geography and Development, Tucson, AZ
Graduate Student Instructor

Taught *Introduction to Geography* to diverse undergraduate students.

2009-2010 University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, CA
Graduate Research Fellow

Conducted research under Professor Jaime King on constitutional consequences of regulating emergent genetic testing technologies.

2009-2010 Bay Area Legal Aid, Oakland, CA
Legal Volunteer

Advised and advocated for low-wage and unemployed clients to obtain needed social services and benefits.

Spring 2009 Center for Biological Diversity, San Francisco, CA
Legal Intern

Legal research and writing to support litigation and efforts to protect wildlife under the Endangered Species Act.

Autumn 2008 Hon. Marilyn Hall Patel, United States District Court, N.D. Cal., San Francisco, CA
Judicial Extern

Wrote bench memoranda and drafted opinions in civil litigation.

Summer 2008 The Asia Foundation, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Law and Policy Associate

Conducted research to support environmental justice efforts in Mongolia ·
Participated in multi-stakeholder mediation and negotiation over mining and water rights.

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Spring 2008 Sierra Club Environmental Law Program, San Francisco, CA
Legal Intern

Conducted legal research and writing in support of environmental and public health litigation.

Summer 2007 Hon. Michael Daly Hawkins, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, San Francisco, CA
Judicial Extern

Wrote bench memoranda and drafted opinions in appellate litigation, including *Nw. Env'tl. Advocates v. EPA*, 537 F.3d 1006 (9th Cir. 2008) (scope of the Clean Water Act, applied to ballast water).

Summer 2006 National Wildlife Federation, Great Lakes Natural Resource Center
Ann Arbor, MI
Great Lakes Policy Intern

Coordinated strategy for Great Lakes restoration campaign.