

JOHN H. KNOX
Henry C. Lauerman Professor of International Law
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EMPLOYMENT

Henry C. Lauerman Professor of International Law, Wake Forest University, 2012 to present.
Professor of Law, 2006 to 2012.

Courses taught: Environmental Law, Human Rights Law, International Law,
International Environmental Law, International Trade Law, Property Law.

Recipient of Joseph Branch Excellence in Teaching Award, 2019.

Co-Vice-Chair, Core Planning Team, University Strategic Framework, 2022-23.

Visiting Professor, University of Oxford, Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law,
summer sessions, 2019 to present.

Professor of Law, Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law, 2004 to 2006.
Associate Professor of Law, 2002 to 2004; Assistant Professor of Law, 1998 to 2002.

Associate, Bickerstaff, Heath & Smiley, L.L.P., Austin, Texas, 1994 to 1998.

Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, 1988 to 1994.

Law Clerk to Judge Joseph T. Sneed, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 1987 to 1988.

UNITED NATIONS APPOINTMENT

Appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to be the first UN Independent Expert
(2012-2015) and Special Rapporteur (2015-2018) on human rights and the environment.

Conducted country visits, held consultations, and published over twenty reports. In 2018,
presented Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment to the Council and
called on the United Nations to recognize the human right to a healthy environment.

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School, J.D. *with distinction*, 1987. Order of the Coif.

Rice University, B.A. *magna cum laude*, 1984. President, Baker College, 1983-1984.

SELECTED REPORTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Human Right to a Healthy Environment, U.N. Doc. A/73/188 (19 July 2018).

Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/37/59 (24 January 2018).

Children's Rights and the Environment, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/37/58 (24 January 2018).

Biodiversity and Human Rights, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/34/49 (19 January 2017).

Climate Change and Human Rights, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/31/52 (1 February 2016).

Mapping Report, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/25/53 (30 December 2013).

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIP

GREENING HUMAN RIGHTS (in progress; under contract with Cambridge University Press).

Dismantling the Fortress: Reforming International Conservation, __ HARVARD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2025).

Environmental Justice as Environmental Human Rights, 55 VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW 157 (2024).

Introduction to Symposium on the Human Right to a Healthy Environment, 117 AJIL UNBOUND 162 (2023).

Introduction to Symposium on Disability, Human Rights Violations, and Crimes Against Humanity, 116 AJIL UNBOUND 64 (2022) (with Catalina Devandas Aguilar).

Human Rights, in OXFORD HANDBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (Lavanya Rajamani and Jacqueline Peel eds., 2021).

A Law Professor in Full, 36 JOURNAL OF LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 213 (2021) (tribute to David Markell).

Constructing the Human Right to a Healthy Environment, 16 ANNUAL REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCE 79 (2020).

The Paris Agreement as a Human Rights Treaty, in HUMAN RIGHTS AND 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Introduction to Symposium on Climate Litigation in the Global South, 114 AJIL UNBOUND 35 (2020) (with Christina Voigt).

The Global Pact for the Environment: At the Crossroads of Human Rights and the Environment, 28 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN, COMPARATIVE AND INT'L ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 40 (2019).

Bringing Human Rights to Bear on Climate Change, 9(3) CLIMATE LAW 165 (2019).

The United Nations Mandate on Human Rights and the Environment, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (Edward Elgar Press, 2019).

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT (John H. Knox and Ramin Pejan, eds.) (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

The Past, Present, and Future of Human Rights and the Environment, 53 WAKE FOREST LAW REVIEW 649 (2018) (symposium).

Human Rights Principles and Climate Change, in OXFORD HANDBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE LAW (Cinnamon Carlarne et al. eds., 2016).

Environmental Disasters and Human Rights, in THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN REDUCING DISASTER RISK (Jacqueline Peel and David Fisher eds., 2016).

Human Rights, Environmental Protection, and the Sustainable Development Goals, 24 WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 517 (2015) (symposium).

The United States, Environmental Agreements, and the Political Question Doctrine, 40 NORTH CAROLINA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 933 (2015) (symposium).

Climate Ethics and Human Rights, 5 J. OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT 22 (2014).

Evaluating Citizen Petition Procedures: Lessons from an Analysis of the NAFTA Environmental Commission, 47 TEXAS INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 505 (2012) (with David Markell).

The Ruggie Rules: Applying Human Rights Law to Corporations, in THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (Radu Mares ed., 2011).

The Unpredictable Presumption Against Extraterritoriality, 40 SOUTHWESTERN LAW REVIEW 635 (2011) (symposium).

A Presumption Against Extrajurisdictionality, 104 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 351 (2010) (lead article).

Neglected Lessons of the NAFTA Environmental Regime, 45 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 391 (2010) (symposium).

Diagonal Environmental Rights, in UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTRATERRITORIAL

- OBLIGATIONS (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010).
- Climate Change and Human Rights Law*, 50 VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF INT'L LAW 163 (2009).
- Linking Human Rights and Climate Change at the United Nations*, 33 HARVARD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW 477 (2009) (symposium).
- Horizontal Human Rights Law*, 102 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INT'L LAW 1 (2008) (lead article).
- The Boundary Waters Treaty: Ahead of Its Time, and Ours*, 54 WAYNE LAW REVIEW 1591 (2008) (symposium).
- NRDC v. EPA*, 101 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (2007) (case note).
- The Flawed Trail Smelter Procedure*, in TRANSBOUNDARY HARMS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW: LESSONS FROM THE *TRAIL SMELTER* ARBITRATION (Cambridge University Press, 2006).
- The 2005 Activity of the NAFTA Tribunals*, 100 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INT'L LAW 429 (2006).
- The Judicial Resolution of Conflicts Between Trade and the Environment*, 28 HARVARD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW 1 (2004) (lead article).
- The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and Transboundary Pollution*, 34 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REPORTER 10142 (2004).
- The International Legal Framework for Addressing Climate Change*, 12 PENN STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW 135 (2004).
- Separated at Birth: The North American Agreements on Labor and the Environment*, 26 LOYOLA L.A. INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW REVIEW 359 (2004).
- GREENING NAFTA: THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (Stanford University Press, 2003), co-edited with David L. Markell.
- Assessing the Candidates for a Global Treaty on Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment*, 12 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL 153 (2003).
- The Myth and Reality of Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment*, 96 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 291 (2002) (lead article). Received Francis Deák Prize.
- A New Approach to Compliance with International Environmental Law: the Submissions Procedure of the NAFTA Environmental Commission*, 28 ECOLOGY LAW QUARTERLY 1 (2001) (lead article).

PRESENTATIONS

I have lectured, presented papers, or taught classes at a number of academic institutions, including American University, Barcelona, Cambridge, Case Western, Colgate, Columbia, Davidson, Duke, Essex, European University Institute, Florida, Fribourg, Geneva, Georgia, Graduate Institute (in Geneva), Guilford, Harvard, Hastings, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Illinois-Chicago, Instituto Superior Tecnico (Lisbon), King's College London, La Salle (in Bogotá), Miami, Michigan, Michigan State, New York University, North Carolina, North-West University (in South Africa), Oslo, Ottawa, Oxford (Linacre), Pace, São Paulo, SMU, Southwestern Law School, the Sorbonne, Stanford, the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, Temple, Texas, Toulouse, University of the Andes, University College London, Vanderbilt, Vermont, Washington, Waterloo, Western Cape (South Africa), Wuhan, and Yale.

I have made presentations to national and international bodies, including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the G7 ministerial meeting, the ICCA Consortium, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, the Philippines Human Rights Commission, the Swedish International Development Agency, the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Human Rights Council, the U.S. State Department Legal Adviser's Office, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Advisory Committee, the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, and the World Bank, as well as at side events at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Environment Assembly, the UN General Assembly, the UN Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, and the World Conservation Congress.

I have also spoken to meetings of professional associations and other non-governmental organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of International Law, the Canadian Council on International Law, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, Conservation International, the Democracy Forum, the Environmental Grantmakers Association, the European Law Students Association, the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment, the Inter-American Environmental Law Congress, the International Bar Association, the ICCA Consortium, the International Law Association, the International Water Resources Association, the Mexican Center for Environmental Law, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, and the World Environmental Law Congress.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of Board of Trustees of Shift, a non-profit organization that provides advice on the application of human rights to business, 2022 to present.

Member of Board of Editors of the *American Journal of International Law*, 2020 to present.

Member of Board of Trustees, Universal Rights Group, Geneva, 2014 to present.

Member Scholar of the Center for Progressive Reform, 2010 to present.

Member of Advisory Board to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, providing advice on a new General Comment on children's rights and the environment, 2022-23.

Member of Advisory Committee to World Bank Human Rights and Development Trust Fund, 2019 to 2023.

Member of Independent Expert Panel investigating potential responsibility of World Wildlife Fund in alleged human rights abuses in national parks in Africa and Asia, 2019 to 2020. The report of the Panel was published in November 2020 and is available [here](#).

Member of Board, Wake Forest University Center for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability, 2014 to 2023.

Member of Advisory Board, UNDP Environmental Governance Program, 2016 to 2019.

Special Counsel to the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), 2008 to 2012.

Chair, EPA National Advisory Committee on the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, September 1999 to August 2001, and May 2003 to September 2005.

Vice-Chair, American Bar Association/Canadian Bar Association/Barras Mexicana Joint Working Group on the Settlement of International Disputes, 1995 to 2004.

Admitted to practice (but inactive) in Pennsylvania (1988) and Texas (1994).